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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE THIRD COUNCIL UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1919

Tuesday, the 1st March 1927

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PERSONNEL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Governor of Madras.

His Excellency the Rt. Hon. *Viscount* GOSCHEN OF HAWKHURST, G.C.I.E., C.B.E. Took his seat on 14th April 1924.

Members of the Executive Council.

1. The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR, K.C.I.E., Law Member. Took his seat on 12th February 1923 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

- Civil Justice.
- Criminal Justice (including petitions for mercy).
- Elections.
- Electricity (including hydro-electric schemes).
- Foreigners.
- Fortnightly report.
- Irrigation.
- Landlord and tenant.
- Legislative.
- Magistracy.
- Marine (Central subject).
- Miscellaneous Judicial heads.
- Passports.
- Police including Criminal Investigation Department.
- Press and registration of books.
- Publicity including Editors' Table.
- Railways.
- Report on matters of political and administrative importance.
- State prisoners.
- Translators to Government.

2. The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Member in charge of Revenue. Took his seat on 27th December 1924 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

- Agency.
- Constitution of districts, divisions and taluks.
- Court of Wards.
- Economic condition (including prices and wages).
- Escheats.
- Famine.
- General (i.e., questions of a general nature which cannot be allocated to any particular department).
- Government Servants' Conduct Rules.
- Indian Civil Service—Questions other than leave and appointments.
- Land Revenue, Survey and Settlement.
- Mines.
- Office procedure.
- Petition rules—General questions.
- Pounds and special funds.
- Public Service Commission and service questions including examinations and special tests and land returns.
- Reforms—not being legislative.
- Treasure trove.
- Warrant of precedence.
- Wild animals.
- Yeomiahs, inams and hereditary pensions.

3. The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur, Home Member. Took his seat on the 30th March 1925 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

Administration report. Air-craft. Arms and explosives. Boilers. Census. Certificate of age and qualification. Criminal Tribes. Depressed classes. Emigration. Forests (including cinchona). Government Houses. Jails. Labour (including factories).	Laccadives. Pilgrims to the Hedjaz. Reformatories. Regulation of medical and other professional qualifications and standards. Rewards for saving life and property. Staff and household of His Excellency the Governor. Stamps. Stationery and Government Presses.

4. The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Finance Member. Took his seat on 27th April 1925 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

Central Subjects— Archæology and Epigraphy. Customs (including trade). Ecclesiastical. Income-tax. Meteorology. Opium. Political (other than matters relating to Indian States).	Central Subjects—*cont.* Post Office. Salt. Telegraphs and telephones. European education. Finance. Military. Move of Government to the Hills. Pensions.

Ministers.

1. The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN. Took his seat on 4th December 1926 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

Education other than European and Anglo-Indian education. Libraries, Museums and Zoological Gardens.	Light and feeder Railways and Tramways within municipal areas. Local Self-Government.

2. The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR. Took his seat on 4th December 1926 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

Agriculture. Civil Veterinary department. Co-operative Societies. Development of industries.	Public Works (buildings, roads, ferries, ropeways, etc.). Registration. Religious and Charitable Endowments.

3. The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR Avargal. Took his seat on 4th December 1926 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

Adulteration of foodstuffs and other articles. Excise. Fisheries. Medical administration.	Pilgrimages within British India Public health and sanitation and vital statistics. Weights and Measures.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

President.

The hon. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU Garu, B.A., B.L.

Deputy President.

Mrs. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI.

Panel of Chairmen.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA.
Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR.
Sir ALEXANDER MACDOUGALL.
Mr. ABBAS ALI.

Secretary to the Council.

M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR Avargal, B.A., M.L.

Assistant Secretary to the Council.

M.R.Ry. C. SATAGOPA ACHARIYAR Avargal, B.A.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
1. Abbas Ali Khan Bahadur, Bar.-at-Law.	Madura and Trichinopoly *cum* Srirangam, Muhammadan Urban.
2. Abdul Hamid Khan Sahib Bahadur.	Madras City, Muhammadan Urban.
3. Abdul Hye Sahib Bahadur, K.	Ceded Districts, Muhammadan Rural.
4. Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur S. K.	North Arcot *cum* Chingleput, Muhammadan Rural.
5. Abdul Wahab Sahib Bahadur, Munshi.	Northern Circars, Muhammadan Rural.
6. Adinarayana Chettiyar, Bar.-at-Law, T.	North Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
7. Anjaneyulu, P.	Guntur, N.-M. Rural.
8. Appavu Chettiyar, C. D. ...	Salem, N.-M. Rural.
9. Ari Gowder, H. B.	The Nilgiris, N.-M. Rural.
10. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. (*Minister*).	Central Districts (Indian Christian).
11. Arpudaswami Udayar, S. ...	Tanjore and Trichinopoly *cum* Madura (Christian).
12. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.	Central Districts, Muhammadan Rural.
13. Bazl-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur, C.I.E., C.B.E., Khan Bahadur Muhammad.	NOMINATED.
14. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu, P. ...	Madras City, N.-M. Urban.
15. Bhanoji Rao, A. V.	Vizagapatam City, N.-M. Urban.
16. Bheemayya, J.	NOMINATED.
17. Biswanath Das Mahasayo, Sriman.	Ganjam, N.-M. Rural.
18. Boag, I.C.S., G. T.	NOMINATED.
19. Chidambaranatha Mudaliyar, T. K.	Tinnevelly, N.-M. Rural.
20. Congreve, C. R. T.	Madras Planters—Planting.
21. Cotterell, C.I.E., I.C.S., C. B. ...	NOMINATED.
22. Davis, J. A.	Anglo-Indian.
23. Dorai Raja, S. N.	NOMINATED.
24. Ellappa Chettiyar, Rao Sahib S.	Salem, N.-M. Rural.
25. Ethirajulu Nayudu, Diwan Bahadur P. C.	Guntur, N.-M. Rural.
26. Gangadhara Siva, M. V. ...	NOMINATED.
27. Gopala Menon, C.	Southern India Chamber of Commerce.
28. Govindaraja Mudaliyar, C. S. ...	Madras City, N.-M. Urban.
29. Guruswami, Rao Sahib L. C. ...	NOMINATED.
30. Hall, O.B.E., I.C.S., J. F. ...	NOMINATED.
31. Hampayya, Rai Sahib M. ...	NOMINATED.
32. Harisarvottama Rao, G. ...	Kurnool, N.-M. Rural.
33. Hearson, H. F. P.	Madras Chamber of Commerce.
34. John, V. Ch.	Northern Districts (Indian Christian).

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
35. Kaleswara Rao, Ayyadevara ...	Kistna, N.-M. Rural.
36. Kameswara Rao Nayudu, Varada.	Ganjam, N.-M. Rural.
37. Karant, K. R.	South Kanara, N.-M. Rural.
38. Khadir Mohidin Sahib Bahadur, Muhammad.	East Coast, Muhammadan Rural.
39. Koti Reddi, Bar.-at-Law, K. ...	Cuddapah, N.-M. Rural.
40. Krishnan, K.	NOMINATED.
41. Krishnan Nayar, Diwan Bahadur M.	Malabar, N.-M. Rural.
42. Krishnaswami Nayakar, K. ...	Chingleput, N.-M. Rural.
43. Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri (Raja Velugoti Sarvagnya Kumara Krishnayachendra Bahadur Varu).	Nellore, N.-M. Rural.
44. Kumaraswami Reddiyar, Diwan Bahadur S.	Tinnevelly, N.-M. Rural.
45. Kuppuswami, J.	Guntur, N.-M. Rural.
46. MacDougall, *Kt.*, Sir Alexander.	European.
47. Madhavan Nayar, K.	Malabar, N.-M. Rural.
48. Mallayya, B. S.	Madras City, N.-M. Urban.
49. Manikkavelu Nayakar, M. A. ...	North Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
50. Marjoribanks, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., The hon. Mr. N. E.	EX OFFICIO.
51. Marudavanam Pillai, C. ...	Tanjore, N.-M. Rural.
52. Meera Ravuttar Bahadur, K. P. V. S. Muhammad.	Madura *cum* Trichinopoly, Muhammadan Rural.
53. Moidoo Sahib Bahadur, T. M....	Malabar, Muhammadan Rural.
54. Moir, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., The hon. Mr. T. E.	EX OFFICIO.
55. Muniswami Nayudu, Rao Bahadur B.	Chittoor N.-M. Rural.
56. Muniswami Pillai, V. I. ...	NOMINATED.
57. Muppil Nayar of Kavalappara *alias* Kumaran Raman.	West Coast Landholders.
58. Murugappa Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur A. M. M.	Ramnad, N.-M. Rural.
59. Muthia Mudaliyar, S.	Tanjore, N.-M. Rural.
60. Muthulakshmi Ammal, Dr. (Mrs.).	NOMINATED.
61. Muthuranga Mudaliyar, C. N.	Chingleput, N.-M. Rural.
62. Nagan Gowda, R.	NOMINATED.
63. Nanjappah Bahadur, Subadar Major S. A.	NOMINATED.
64. Narasimha Raju, Rao Bahadur C. V. S. (*President*).	Vizagapatam, N.-M. Rural.
65. Narayana Raju, Dandu ...	Godavari West, N.-M. Rural.
66. Narayana Rao, Mothay ...	Godavari West, N.-M. Rural.
67. Narayana Reddi, Battini ...	Anantapur, N.-M. Rural.
68. Narayana Chettiyar, Al. Ar. ...	Nattukkottai Nagarathars' Association.
69. Narayanan Nambudiripad, Rao Bahadur O. M.	NOMINATED.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
70. Narayanaswami Pillai, T. M. ...	Trichinopoly, N.-M. Rural.
71. Obi Reddi, Chinnapalamada ...	Anantapur, N.-M. Rural.
72. Pandrang Rao, I.C.S., V. ...	NOMINATED.
73. Parasurama Rao Pantulu, Arcot.	Cuddapah, N.-M. Rural.
74. Parthasarathi Ayyangar, C. R.	Chittoor, N.-M. Rural.
75. Patro, *Kt.*, Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.	Ganjam, N.-M. Rural.
76. Premayya, G.	NOMINATED.
77. Raja of Jeypore (Maharaja Sri Ramachandra Deo).	NOMINATED.
78. Raja of Panagal, K.C.I.E. (Sir P. Ramarayaningar).	North Central Landholders.
79. Raja of Ramnad (Bhaskara Rajarajeswara Setupathi *alias* Muthuramalinga Setupathi).	South Central Landholders.
80. Rajan, P. T.	Madura, N.-M. Rural.
81. Ramachandra Padayachi, K. ...	South Arcot N.-M. Rural
82. Ramachandra Reddi, B. ...	Nellore, N.-M. Rural.
83. Ramanath Goenka	NOMINATED.
84. Ramasomayajulu, C.	Cocanada City, N.-M. Urban.
85. Ramaswami Ayyar, K.C.I.E., The hon. Sir C. P.	EX OFFICIO.
86. Ramaswami Ayyar, U. ...	Trichinopoly *cum* Srirangam, N.-M. Urban.
87. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, The hon. Mr. A. (*Minister*).	Bellary, N.-M. Rural.
88. Ratnasabapathi Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur, C. S.	Coimbatore, N.-M. Rural.
89. Sahajanandam, Swami	NOMINATED.
90. Saldanha, J. A.	West Coast, Indian Christian.
91. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti ...	Madras, N.-M. Urban.
92. Sarabha Reddi, K.	Kurnool, N.-M. Rural.
93. Satyamurti, S.	Madras University.
94. Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, Mahmud.	South Kanara, Muhammadan Rural.
95. Seturatnam Ayyar, M. R. ...	Trichinopoly, N.-M. Rural.
96. Shetty, A. B.	South Kanara, N.-M. Rural.
97. Sitarama Reddi, Rao Bahadur K.	South Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
98. Siva Raj, B.A., B.L., N.	NOMINATED.
99. Siva Rao, P.	Bellary, N.-M. Rural.
100. Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar, K. S.	Tanjore, N.-M. Rural.
101. Slater, C.I.E., I.C.S., S. H. ...	NOMINATED.
102. Smith, J. Mackenzie	Madras Trades Association.
103. Soundara Pandia Nadar, W. P. A.	NOMINATED.
104. Srinivasa Ayyangar, R. ...	South Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
105. Srinivasa Ayyangar, T. C. ...	Ramnad, N.-M. Rural.
106. Srinivasan, Rao Sahib R. ...	NOMINATED.
107. Subbarayan, The hon. Dr. P. (Zamindar of Kumaramangalam) (*Minister*).	South Central Landholders.
108. Subrahmanya Moopanar, S. ...	NOMINATED.

No.	Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
109.	Subrahmanya Pillai, Chavadi K.	Tinnevelly *cum* Palamcottah, N.-M. Urban.
110.	Sundaramurti Pillai, Rao Sahib P. V. S.	NOMINATED.
111.	Swami, Bar.-at-Law, K. V. R.	East Godavari, N.-M. Rural.
112.	Syed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur, Nattam Dubash Kadir Sahib.	Ramnad *cum* Tinnevelly, Muhammadan Rural.
113.	Tajudin Sahib Bahadur, Syed ...	Tanjore, Muhammadan Rural.
114.	Thomas, Daniel	Ramnad *cum* Tinnevelly, Indian Christian.
115.	Tireman, C.I.E., H.	NOMINATED.
116.	Tulasiram, L. K.	Madura City, N.-M. Urban.
117.	Tyler, C.I.E., I.C.S., H. H. F. M.	NOMINATED.
118.	Uppi Sahib Bahadur, K. ...	Malabar, Muhammadan.
119.	Usman Sahib Bahadur, The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad.	EX OFFICIO.
120.	Vanavudia Goundar, S. V. ...	Coimbatore, N.-M. Rural.
121.	Venkatapati Razu, P. C. ...	Vizagapatam, N.-M. Rural.
122.	Venkatarama Ayyar, K. R. ...	Madura, N.-M. Rural.
123.	Venkatarama Sastriyar, C.I.E., T. R. (*Advocate-General*).	NOMINATED.
124.	Venkataramana Ayyangar, C. V.	Coimbatore, N.-M. Rural.
125.	Venkatarangam Nayudu, C. ...	North Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
126.	Venkataratnam, B.	East Godavari, N.-M. Rural.
127.	Venkiah, S.	NOMINATED.
128.	Wood, C. E.	Madras Chamber of Commerce.
129.	Zamindar of Gollapalli (Srimannarayana Appa Rao Bahadur Garu, Meka).	Northern Landholders, II.
130.	Zamindar of Kallikota (Sri Ramachandra Mardaraja Deo).	Northern Landholders, I.
131.	Zamindar of Mirzapuram (Mirzapuram Raja Garu alias Venkataramayya Appa Rao Bahadur Garu).	Kistna, N.-M. Rural.
132.	Zamindar of Seithur (Vadamalai Tiruvanatha Sevuga Pandiya Tevar Avargal).	Madura, N.-M. Rural

Special Members.

No.	Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
133.	Hawley, M.S.C., F.I.C., Herbert.	NOMINATED.
134.	Russell, C.B.E., I.M.S., Major A. J. H.	NOMINATED.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Official Report.

First Session of the Third Council under the Government of India Act, 1919.

VOLUME XXXIV

Tuesday, the 1st March 1927.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. President (the hon. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju Garu) in the chair.

PRESENT:

Ramaswami Ayyar, K.C.I.E., The hon. Sir C. P.
Marjoribanks, C.S.I., C.I.E., The hon. Mr. N. E.
Usman Sahib Bahadur, The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad.
Moir, C.S.I., C.I.E., The hon. Mr. T. E.
Subbarayan, The hon. Dr. P.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, The hon. Mr. A.
Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N.
Abbas Ali Khan Bahadur.
Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur S. K.
Adinarayana Chettiyar, Mr. T.
Anjaneyulu, Mr. P.
Ari Gowder, Mr. H. B.
Arpudaswami Udayar, Mr. S.
Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.
Bazl-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur, C.I.E., C.B.E., Khan Bahadur Muhammad.
Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu, Mr. P.
Bheemayya, Mr. J.
Boag, Mr. G. T.
Chidambaranatha Mudaliyar, Mr. T. K.
Cotterell, C.I.E., Mr. C. B.
Dorai Raja, Mr. S. N.
Ellappa Chettiyar, Rao Sahib S.
Ethirajulu Nayudu, Diwan Bahadur P. C.
Gangadhara Siva, Mr. M. V.
Gopala Menon, Mr. C.
Govindaraja Mudaliyar, Mr. C. S.
Guruswami, Rao Sahib L. C.
Hall, O.B.E., Mr. J. F.
Hamid Khan Sahib Bahadur, Abdul.
Hampayya, Rai Sahib M.
Harisarvottama Rao, Mr. G.
Hawley, Mr. H.
Hearson, Mr. H. F. P.
John, Mr. V. Ch
Kaleswara Rao, Mr. A.
Karant, Mr. K. R.
Khadir Mohidin Sahib Bahadur, Muhammad.
Koti Reddi, Mr. K.
Krishnan, Mr. K.
Krishnan Nayar, Diwan Bahadur M.
Krishnaswami Nayakar, Mr. K. V.
Kumaraswami Reddiyar, Diwan Bahadur S.
Kuppuswami, Mr. J.
MacDougall, *Kt.*, Sir Alexander.
Madhavan Nayar, Mr. K.
Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur.
Mallayya, Dr. B. S.
Manikkavelu Nayakar, Mr. M. A.
Marudavanam Pillai, Mr. C.
Muniswami Nayudu, Rao Bahadur B.
Muniswami Pillai, Mr. V. I.
Muppil Nayar of Kavalappara.
Muttayya Mudaliyar, Mr. S.
Muthulakshmi Reddi, Dr. (Mrs.).
Muthuranga Mudaliyar, Mr. C. N.
Nagan Gowda, Mr. R.
Nanjappa Bahadur, M.V.O., Subadar-Major S. A.
Narayana Raju, Mr. D.
Narayana Reddi, Mr. C. B.
Narayanan Chettiyar, Mr. Al. Ar.
Narayanaswami Pillai, Mr. T. M.
Obi Reddi, Mr. C.
Pandrang Rao, Mr. V.
Parasurama Rao Pantulu, Mr. A.
Parthasarathi Ayyangar, Mr. C. R.
Patro, *Kt.*, Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.
Premayya, Mr. G.
Raja of Panagal, K.C.I.E.
Rajan, Mr. P. T.
Ramachandra Padayachi, Mr. K.
Ramachandra Reddi, Mr. B.
Ramanath Goenka, Mr.
Ramasomayajulu, Mr. C.
Russell, Major A. J. H.
Sahajanandam, Swami A. S.
Saldanha, Mr. J. A.
Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, Mr.
Sarabha Reddi, Mr. K.
Satyamurti, Mr. S.

PRESENT—*cont.*

Seturatnam Ayyar, Mr. M. R.
Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Sitarama Reddi, Rao Bahadur K.
Siva Raj, Mr. N.
Slater, C.I.E., Mr. S. H.
Smith, Mr. J. Mackenzie.
Soundara Pandia Nadar, Mr. W. P. A.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. R.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. T. C.
Srinivasan, Rao Sahib R.
Subrahmanya Moopanar, Mr. S.
Sundaramurti Pillai, Rao Sahib P. V. S.
Swami, Mr. K. V. R.
Syed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur.
Thomas, Mr. Daniel.
Tireman, C.I.E., Mr. H.
Tulasiram, Mr. L. K.
Venkatapati Raju, Mr. P. C.
Venkatarama Ayyar, Mr. K. R.
Venkataramana Ayyangar, Mr. C. V.
Venkatarangam Nayudu, Mr. C.
Venkataratnam, Mr. B.
Venkiah, Mr. S.
Wood, Mr. C. E.
Zamindar of Gollapalli.

I

NEW MEMBERS.

The following new Members were sworn in :—

Major A. J. H Russell, C.B.E., I.M.S.
Mr. Herbert Hawley, M.SC., F.I.C.
Mr. H. F. P. Hearson.

II

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No.* 15 *on the* 4*th December* 1924.

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The President will call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS

Irrigation

Extent of the Romperu drain.

* 110 Q.—Mr. G. Premayya : Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) when was the six furlongs limit of Romperu drain first made ;

(*b*) whether there have been any improvements made since then ;

(*c*) what is the approximate sum spent by the Government for the improvements up to date ;

(*d*) whether the Government have received any memorials or petitions explaining the present difficulties of the ryots owning land within six furlongs from the Romperu drain ;

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(e) whether the Government have taken any action to remove the difficulties of the ryots ; and

(f) whether Government propose to change the limit from six to three furlongs at least?

A.—(a) In 1925.

(b) & (c) No improvements to the drain have been carried out recently.

(d) A memorial was received from the ryots of Ipurupalem Vada, Bapatla taluk, in December 1925.

(e) & (f) Orders have recently been issued relaxing the prohibition in the case of lands situated on the left side of the drain and those lands on the right side already held on patta except those cases in which cultivation is detrimental to public interest. Instructions have been issued that in such cases the lands should be acquired and the pattadars granted other lands in exchange. Absolute prohibition is confined to new cultivation and extensions of existing cultivation within six furlongs on the right side of the drain measured from the centre of its defined course.

Substitution of machinery for manual labour in the Mettur Project.

* 111 Q.—Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is a proposal before the Government to reduce the number of men employed or to be employed under the Mettur scheme, and to substitute machinery ;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered the desirability of employing a large number of hands at a time of great distress and unemployment in this Presidency ; and

(c) whether the Government have arrived at any conclusion, and if so, to what effect?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 2 put by the hon. Member for South Kanara at the meeting of the 24th January 1927. There will be abundant scope for manual labour notwithstanding the fullest use of machinery.

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"This question, I may say, Sir, has been answered after the last question was answered in January last and I want the hon. the Law Member to give me, with reference to what has appeared in the papers recently that this special officer came to Madras and stayed long evidently for an interview with the hon. the Law Member and others, a definite answer to clause (a) of the question as to whether this machinery will not take away the scope for employment for a very large number of hands. There is no use of saying there is abundant scope for manual labour. I want to be clear whether the proposed Rs. 60 lakhs to be spent upon machinery is to be spent and whether that will mean a necessary reduction of labour and whether all that will be done after taking the Council into confidence. I have specifically asked whether the Government have

arrived at any conclusion, and, if so, to what effect. No answer is given to that clause. I want a definite answer to my question, if the hon. the Law Member would be pleased to give it."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, with reference to the query whether the Council will be taken into confidence before a large outlay is made upon machinery, I may say that we hope to be able to give an account of the type of machinery that is sought to be employed and the cost of that machinery, and to justify the use of that machinery, on an appropriate occasion on the floor of this House. With regard to the other question that emanated from the hon. Member, namely, whether it would be the result from the utilization of machinery that a certain less number of men would be employed that it would otherwise be the case, I may say that the object of this machinery is to reduce manual labour especially of an arduous and dangerous description. I may at once mention that the machinery is only for that purpose, namely, to mix cement or mortar and stone together and to dump the mixture on to the locality where the work is to be carried on in the headworks. The answer that is attempted to give in this question is this: that notwithstanding the use of this machinery the work is of such magnitude that all the available labour in the locality will be utilized."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I am sorry the answer is still indefinite. I want to know whether the House will be taken into confidence before any money is spent upon machinery."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"How does that question arise?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I have clearly asked whether the Government have arrived at any conclusion."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The question of taking the House into confidence does not arise out of the answer given."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I want to know whether the Government have arrived at any conclusion, or will hereafter arrive at any conclusion in this matter of reducing the number of men to be employed."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"The Government have not yet arrived at any conclusion. The report of the Special Officer has not yet been perused by Government and on a perusal of that report and on a consideration of the balance of convenience, the Government will arrive at a conclusion."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I want to know if the hon. the Law Member can say definitely whether the machinery is not likely to dispense with over 50 per cent of the possible manual labour that would be otherwise engaged."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"It is impossible to say that. The idea of this machinery is to replace manual labour. All that I was concerned to point out is that there is abundant scope for employment for every single man in and about the locality."

Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—"Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to inform us whether machinery for excavating earth has been ordered for on account of the Mettur project?"

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The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I believe an excavator has been ordered for."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" May I also ask whether for the purpose of digging foundations or for removing stones machinery has been ordered, i.e., whether the machinery ordered for will not carry stones, etc., from one part of the dam to the other ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" No, Sir. Not that I am aware of."

Appointment of a committee to investigate the Pykara scheme.

*112 Q.—Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the committee appointed to investigate the Pykara scheme have submitted their report and if so, to what effect ;

(b) whether the Government have any objection to lay the report on the table ;

(c) whether a new committee has been appointed and if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the Government Order appointing the new committee ; and

(d) whether any orders have been placed in connexion with the scheme and what sums have been already spent on the scheme with the chief items of expenditure ?

A.—(a) & (b) Messrs. Merz and McLellan, Consulting Engineers to the Railway Board, have examined and reported on the scheme. The report being confidential cannot be placed on the table of the House.

(c) The Government have appointed a small committee under the Director of Industries to investigate the demand for electric power and the price at which it will be taken.

The committee is composed as follows :—

(1) The Director of Industries, President, *Ex-officio.*

(2) Mr. E. J. B. Greenwood, Electrical Inspector to Government.

(3) M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur S. K. Sundaracharlu, Deputy Collector.

The Government see no object in placing the Government Order on the table of the House.

(d) No orders have been placed in connexion with the scheme nor has any expenditure been incurred with the exception of that on the investigation of the scheme.

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" As regards the answer to clauses (a) and (b), may I not ask the hon. the Law Member if he cannot at least give us some idea of the confidential report or give some extracts from that report omitting if he likes the confidential portion, because it may become too late, I am afraid, so far as this Pykara scheme is concerned, for us to scrutinize the matter."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" The hon. Member will see exactly the reason for keeping the report confidential at the present moment. Messrs. Merz and McLellan are Consulting Engineers to the

Railway Board. It is with reference to the contemplated co-operation between the Railway Board and the Government that the Railway Board and the Government of Madras have arrived at the conclusion that the Consulting Engineers to the Railway Board should be asked to report. Those Engineers have reported and sent the report to the Railway Board. When the Railway Board and this Government come to an understanding on this matter and tentative conclusions are reached, the report, I have no doubt, will be made public excluding certain portions which relate to particular firms or other confidential matter. Before this House is asked to vote money on the initiation of the Pykara project, this report will be available to the House."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether these Consulting Engineers were paid any remuneration for their report ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Not yet, Sir. They will be, of course."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether Mr. Sundaracharlu mentioned in answer to clause (c) has submitted any report on the particular deputation in which he himself was engaged ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Yes, Sir. I am now dealing with that report."

Mr. S. N. DORAI RAJA :—" May I know from the hon. the Law Member whether the new committee appointed is due to the confidential nature of the report made by the Consulting Engineers ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" No, Sir. I may be in a position to say that provisionally or tentatively the railway have agreed to take 50 per cent of the power started in Pykara. With reference to the other portion, we wanted to know what the power demand was, and somebody had to go round and collect data for the purpose, and that is the reason for the appointment of that committee."

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" May I ask whether in this investigation that is going to be made the municipalities in the west coast also will be consulted ? Because I find that the investigation so far is confined to the east coast and the south of the Presidency, I wish to know whether they will investigate in the west coast where also there is great demand for power."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The question whether Malabar should be included or comprised in the Pykara scheme is under consideration."

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" I want to know whether South Kanara will have the benefit of the scheme. That is why I said ' west coast '. "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I am afraid at the present moment it is impossible to say. South Kanara, in the first place, is too far away. I am speaking provisionally to make an economic use of this power."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" In answer to clause (c), I find ' The Government see no object in placing the Government Order on the table of the House.' May I request the hon. the Law Member to

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publish it, so that people interested in the scheme may also give their views and lay them before the Government before the enquiry is completed by the said committee ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I think the idea of it was only for the purpose of collating the power demand. If the hon. Members want it, I have no objection to place the Government Order on the table of the House, and if any of the hon. Members are willing to assist the Government by giving their views as to the power demand, we shall be only too grateful."

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—" Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to say whether the special officer deputed for this work had finished his work before he was appointed for investigating the conditions of cottage industry in the Presidency ?" 11-15 a.m.

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" As I said in answer to a question that emanated from the hon. Member for Malabar, I am dealing with the report in consultation with my hon. Colleagues, His Excellency and other Members of the Government, and final orders will be issued a little later. It is impossible now to state whether the work so far done is final or not."

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—" Was the special officer transferred before his work was actually completed ? You will have seen it in the local papers . . ."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" If Government come to the conclusion that there will be more work for this committee, he will be asked to do it."

Police

Punitive police in Gooty and Tadpatri taluks.

*113 Q.—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether there is any longer any necessity to continue the punitive police stationed at Peddavaduvur and other villages in Gooty and Tadpatri taluks of Anantapur district ?

A.—The continuance of the additional police will come up for the consideration of Government in April next when a report from the District Magistrate is due.

Railways

Proposed construction of a railway line in Salem district.

*114 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether there is any proposal before the Government to have a railway line in the Salem district in connexion with the Mettur scheme, and if so, to what length and at what cost ?

A.—In October last the Railway Board sanctioned a detailed survey of a line of railway on the 5′ 6″ gauge from Salem to Mettur dam via Mecheri, a distance of 26 miles. The cost of the project cannot be known until the survey is completed.

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Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" May I know if any idea can be given as to when this line is to be commenced ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I have not received any report from the Railways as to when they are going to commence, but the Railway administration are very anxious to commence this line with the co-operation of Government."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" Is the cost to be included in the Mettur project estimate, or is it a different question altogether ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" The cost of this railway will be in the railway budget. It will not be in the Mettur project. The survey of the project has been completed."

Assignment of Lands

Payment of site value for getting darkhast lands.

* 115 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that members of the depressed classes are required to pay site value for getting on darkhast, valuable lands outside town limits ;

(*b*) whether any complaints have been received by the Government that the members of the depressed classes of South Kanara are too poor to take up land paying site value ;

(*c*) whether there is any provision to exempt them from payment of the site value, and who exercises that power now ; and

(*d*) whether Government have any objection to delegate the power to the Collectors of the districts in order to facilitate the assignments and, if so, what is the objection ?

A.—(*a*) Assignment of valuable land to members of the depressed classes is ordinarily on payment of the estimated market value which may be collected in easy instalments.

(*b*) No complaints have been received.

(*c*) Yes ; the power to make free grants vests in the Government.

(*d*) The Government do not consider it desirable to delegate to the Collectors of districts the power to dispose of valuable lands otherwise than on the payment of the full value for them.

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that Collectors are empowered to grant valuable lands within town limits free of site value ? "

The hon Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" I must ask for notice, Sir."

Mr. S. N. Dorai Raja :—" Though the power of exemption is vested in the Government, is it not that it is generally based on the proposals of the Collector and in view of this, will the Government be pleased to reconsider their decision and delegate to the Collectors this power of exemption ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" As far as I can catch the question, the answer seems to be in clause (*d*)."

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Land Revenue

Pay of shroffs of the Revenue department.

* 116 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the shroffs of the Revenue department were drawing the same pay as clerks prior to 1921, that is, before the introduction of time-scales for clerks ;

(*b*) whether the Huzur second shroffs are even now classified as clerks as regards their pay ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the pay of the shroffs of the Revenue department is now fixed at Rs. 20—1—35 ; and

(*d*) whether the grievance is receiving the consideration of the hon. Member ?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) Huzur second shroffs are not now classified as clerks as regards their pay.

(*c*) The general scale of pay of shroffs in the Revenue department is Rs. 20—1—35. A few shroffs are on higher scales.

(*d*) The Government are not aware what grievance is referred to. The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 1326 at the meeting of this Council on 9th February 1926.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, the answer is given that 'the Government are not aware what grievance is referred to.' The point I want to make is that the shroffs ought to be as well off as the clerks in regard to pay, if not better, because they are discharging very onerous duties. That is the grievance. So I ask whether Government are going to satisfy the demand of these people."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" That question was answered on a previous occasion."

Failure of crops in Ceded districts.

* 117 *Q.*—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware of the almost total failure of crops in most parts of the Ceded districts consequent on the failure of the later rains ; and

(*b*) what measures are proposed to be taken to relieve the people from the famine conditions prevailing ?

A.—(*a*) The later or hingari crops have failed in many villages of the Rayadrug, Bellary, Alur and Adoni taluks of Bellary district, the Gooty and Tadpatri taluks of Anantapur district and some villages of the Pattikonda taluk of Kurnool district.

There has also been a considerable failure of crops in Markapur taluk of the Kurnool district and in parts of the Cuddapah district.

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(b) In Bellary and Anantapur the collection of revenue and loans instalments has been postponed in the affected villages. Loans are being granted and local board works started to provide employment. In Kurnool so far no special measures have been reported necessary beyond the provisions of free grazing in the forests and grant of loans but a further report is due from the Collector.

In Cuddapah it is hoped to meet the situation for the present by an expansion of minor irrigation and village works and the grant of loans.

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the forest facilities spoken of in the answer to the question are confined only to the Markapur taluk ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know whether the hon. the Revenue Member visited the district recently in connexion with the famine conditions prevailing there ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not see how it arises out of the question, Sir. But I may say I was in Kurnool recently."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Does the hon. the Revenue Member expect the Collector to send another report before he takes further action in the matter of forest privileges, loans, suspension of revenue collection and remission of revenue ? Does the hon. Member propose to wait till a further report is received from the Collector ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" This answer was sent to the Council office some time ago. We have since received a further report and we have taken further action in certain directions. We are giving grants for local fund works and extending minor irrigation works. As regards free grazing, when I was there, I understood that it was not confined to a particular taluk. That was why when the hon. Member put the question to me I asked for notice."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I ask the hon. the Revenue Member to communicate to the Collector that free grazing should not be confined to one taluk alone ? The Collector sent a circular in general terms specifically mentioning Markapur taluk and stating that the concession may be extended ' where necessary ' to other taluks. It has not been extended to Pattikonda. Will the hon. the Revenue Member communicate to the Collector to extend the forest facilities to Pattikonda and, if he thinks it fit, to Dronachalam taluk also ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I shall certainly communicate to the Collector what the hon. Member has just now said. I had no information that the concession has been confined to Markapur alone. When I was there I was told that the people of Pattikonda and Dronachalam thought the Nallamalais was too far away for the concession to be useful to them. I had no information that it was not open to them ; I shall communicate to the Collector what the hon. Member has said."

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Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"May I know what the Government propose to do in the matter of suspension of the revenue collection which is more heavily pressing upon the people than anything else and also in the matter of remission?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"No remission or suspension is contemplated."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—"May I know whether the question of free grazing in Cuddapah has been considered by the Government?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"The matter has been decided by the Collector and the Conservator of Forests. I do not know whether it is allowed in Cuddapah."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—"Is the hon. Member aware that grazing fees have been increased this year? If so, considering the bad condition of the district will the hon. Member see that it is reduced?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I do not think that the grazing fees were increased this year. The orders were cancelled."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"With reference to the answer given by the hon. the Revenue Member that the question of allowing free grazing is one for the Collector and the Conservator to decide, may I ask him whether he does not think it necessary to interfere with the decision of these officers and ask them to grant the concession liberally in times of famine and scarcity? Is it not within his province?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"Certainly, Sir, if I had any reason to think that it has not been considered liberally."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—"Will the hon. Member enquire into the matter?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"I have every reason to suppose that the matter is considered liberally."

Damages to lands by the Padne bar in Kasaragod taluk.

* 118 Q.—MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that damages are caused to the adjoining lands and cultivators by the Padne bar in the Kasaragod taluk of South Kanara district on account of erosion and overflow of salt water into the fields;

(b) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table the reports of the Collectors of South Kanara in connexion with the measures proposed for preventing the damages; and

(c) what they propose to do in the matter?

A.—(a) The Government have no information.

(b) No reports have been received.

(c) The Government will call for a report.

MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur :—"Will the Government be pleased to call for a report also on the extent of the damage caused to the adjoining lands and the damage that is likely to be caused in the near future?"

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The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" As I have stated in the answer, a report has been called for, and before we get the report, we cannot say what action may be taken."

Failure of crops in North Arcot district.

*119 *Q.*—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether on the applications received from the villages of Kaveripakkam, Kondapuram, Cheri and Kannlari for remission of tax on account of the failure of the second crop for fasli 1335, the revenue officers have visited and examined completely the lands in the abovesaid villages ;

(*b*) if so, how much amount has been sanctioned by way of remission for each of the above villages ;

(*c*) whether the Government will be pleased to order the postponement of the collection of tax till March for fasli 1336 as the crops have totally failed in some places, and partially in some other places, owing to lack of water in the Kaveripakkam tank and the failure of the rains ;

(*d*) whether the Government will be pleased to appoint a special officer to look into and report about the failure or otherwise of the crops and not solely depend on the report of the revenue officers and karnams ;

(*e*) whether the Government will be pleased to levy only punja rates of tax, if any crops are raised in nanjai lands for the second part of fasli 1336 solely by baling out water from the wells ;

(*f*) whether the Government will be pleased to collect the tax in six instalments instead of four with respect to the lands in the district of North Arcot or at least to the lands in Arkonam taluk, or at least to the lands in villages irrigated by Kaveripakkam tank ; and

(*g*) what orders have been passed, on petitions to the District Collector, North Arcot, and on the resolutions passed at the Irrigation Conference at Ranipet in respect of the remission of land tax for fasli 1336 owing to failure of crops on account of drought ?

A.—(*a*) The Government have no reason to think otherwise.

(*b*) The Government have not the information.

(*c*) No orders of Government are necessary to postpone the collection of kist to March. The Board of Revenue is competent to sanction the postponement of collection within the fasli and the Collector will no doubt obtain the orders of the Board, if necessary.

(*d*) The suggestion does not commend itself to Government. They have no reason to think that the local revenue officers are incapable of discharging their ordinary duties.

(*e*) The hon. Member's attention is drawn to paragraph 5 of Board's Standing Order No. 6.

(*f*) The answer is in the negative.

(*g*) The Government are not aware of the resolutions referred to and have no information as to the action taken on them by the Collector.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" With reference to (*a*), it is stated 'the Government have no reason to think otherwise.' My information is that the area has not been visited by the various officers as often as is

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necessary. In the light of this information, will the Government be pleased to ascertain, instead of merely guessing, whether the officers in the district have really visited the area ? "

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" With reference to (b), the Government say they have not the information. Will they be pleased to call for the information ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" As regards the first supplementary question, I will refer the matter to the Collector of the district. As to the second, I have not got the information and it will be sometime before it is available, because the final figures will not be available till after the jamabandi."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" With regard to clause (c), I know that the Board of Revenue is competent to deal with the matter of the postponement of collection of kist. But what I want to know is whether the Collector has reported recommending postponement of collection to the Board of Revenue ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" If the hon. Member wishes to have information on the matter, I shall call for it."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" I very much wish to have it, Sir."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" May I ask what effect has been given to the resolution passed by this House recommending remission so far as the district of North Arcot is concerned ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I think that is a subject on which a question has been put and a detailed answer separately given."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" With regard to clause (c) of the answer, it refers to paragraph 5 of the Board's Standing Order, but the case of Kaveripakkam is very peculiar--it is compounded wet--and I do not think it is covered fully by the answer. Therefore, will the hon. the Revenue Member be pleased to direct the attention of the Revenue officers to this aspect of the question, viz., that the assessment there is compounded wet and unless an exception is made in this case the people will have to go without relief as they have gone for the last three years ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not quite understand what the hon. Member means by compounded wet. If he means that the second crop assessment has been compounded for, then it will have to be paid for. That is the object of composition."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" With reference to the Kaveripakkam ayacut, both crops have failed for the last three years. Therefore I would ask the hon. the Revenue Member to give special attention to this case. Under the ordinary rules, these ryots would go without any remission. There has been a complete failure of both crops for the last three years ? "

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know the particular reason for the negative answer to clause (f) ? "

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The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" As regards the first question, Sir, I must say I do not quite understand what the hon. Member wants to be done. If he were to put it in writing, I would be glad to consider it. As regards the second question, why the answer is in the negative, we do not know any reason why it should not be."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" I shall state my contention in writing and send it on to the hon. Member in two or three days."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SYEED :—" Will the hon. the Revenue Member, in view of the resolution passed in the last Council, see his way to give effect to that ? "

Depressed Classes

Provision of house-sites for the depressed classes in Malabar.

* 120 Q.—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government agree with the view of the Commissioner of Labour on the question of provision of house-sites for the depressed classes in the district of Malabar expressed in paragraph 23 of his Administration Report for 1925-26 ; and

(b) whether the Government propose to refer the question for report to the Collector after ascertaining the opinion of public bodies engaged in the work of amelioration of the conditions of the depressed classes ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) No. The report of the Commissioner of Labour is based upon the views of the Collector of Malabar and the Honorary District Labour Officer on the subject.

Operations of the Labour department in South Kanara.

* 121 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the depressed classes in certain parts of South Kanara, chiefly in Coondapoor and Uppinangadi taluks, are not getting the benefit of the work which the Labour department is doing for them in the district ; and

(b) whether Government propose to extend the operations of the Labour department to those parts also ?

A.—(a) The special operations of the department have not yet been extended to the two taluks specified.

(b) Yes.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" With regard to answer to (b), when do the Government propose to extend the operations to those parts ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" We hope to do so after April."

MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur :—" Has the Labour Commissioner reported about the necessity for extending these operations to those taluks ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Yes, Sir."

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Forests

Alleged prohibition of Mr. Charles Mohony from shooting in Bolampatti Valley forests.

* 122 Q.—Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao: Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Conservator of Forests recently made an order prohibiting Mr. Charles Mohony, Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests, from shooting in reserved forests of Bolampatti Valley for two years; and

(b) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to state why such prohibition was imposed upon the said officer?

A.—(a) The Chief Conservator has ordered that Mr. Mohony shall be prohibited from shooting in any reserved forest for a period of two years from 12th May 1926.

(b) The Chief Conservator disapproved of Mr. Mohony's conduct in a shooting accident which occurred in August 1925.

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao:—"May I know from the hon. Member concerned what exactly the accident was?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"Shooting game."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao:—"Did a man die?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"I think he did."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao:—"Does the Government think that prohibition from shooting for two years in the reserved forest is a sufficient punishment for a crime like that?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"There was compensation given to the relations of the deceased. It was considered to be an accident. Looking into the matter the Government came to the conclusion that there were not materials for any other action."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao:—"May I know what the compensation was?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. S. Satyamurti:—"May I know whether the matter was placed in the hands of the Police for investigation, and may I know what the materials were on which the Government came to its conclusion?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"Notice."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar:—"Has the Government satisfied itself that there was anything there to make this gentleman mistake a human being for something else?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"He shot in the darkness; whether he ought not to have gone there, whether he was a competent shot and whether he was allowed to shoot there at all, were matters which the Government considered in coming to a conclusion. There was no intention on his part to shoot any human being and he did not know that any human being was there."

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Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao: —" May I know whether one individual was shot or more?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar: —" One."

Mr. S. Satyamurti: —" In answer to my question as to whether the matter was placed in the hands of the Police, and what the materials were on which the Government came to the conclusion that compensation to the relatives would be sufficient, my hon. Friend the Law Member stated that he wanted notice. In answer to another question, he is able to give a lot of materials, that the European went there in darkness, that his intention was not to shoot any one, and so on. May I ask what the materials are on which he is making this statement, whether the matter came before the Government, or whether he is answering merely as the spokesman of the Chief Conservator?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar: —" I am not the spokesman of the Chief Conservator, in any way. The position is this. Out of courtesy to the hon. Member who put the question, out of courtesy to the House, I wanted to collect all the materials. I do remember certain circumstances connected with the matter and I have placed these materials before the House. If full materials are desired, those materials would be carefully collated and placed before the House."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao: —" May I know if Mr. Mohony is allowed to carry arms?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar: —" If the idea is carrying arms for shooting, no."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao: —" Is he permitted to carry arms even now?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar: —" To carry arms as an official or for shooting in the reserved forest?"

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao: —" As an individual living in India."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar: —" There is no prohibition to any one living in India against carrying arms."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao: —" Has the Government power to take away the licence of the man when he misuses arms?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar: —" It has, Sir."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao: —" Then why has it not exercised this power?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar: —" It has exercised its power of prohibiting him from shooting."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao: —" It has not exercised the power of withdrawing the licence."

11-30 a.m. Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan: —" Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the alleged accident took place in the night and, if so, at what hour?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar: —" I want notice, Sir."

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Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—" Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether this case was referred to the Police at all for investigation ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I want notice, Sir."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—" May I know the nationality of the man who was shot dead ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I do not remember, Sir."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know if there is any provision in the laws of the country by which a man may be left scotfree without being handed over to the Police for a murder of this kind ? "

The hon. the President :—" That is calling for opinion."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" I am not asking for any opinion."

The hon. the President :—" I rule that it is a question calling for opinion."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I know under what provision of law the Government acted, when they decided that in the circumstances of the case compensation would be tantamount to justice, and not prosecution for manslaughter or murder before a criminal court ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" It is not a question of law. The Government came to the conclusion that there is no material on which a successful prosecution can be launched. Therefore, they did not launch the prosecution, but found it necessary that this man should compensate the relations of the injured person."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" In view of that answer, may I ask the hon. the Law Member whether a full statement of the case was before the Government, and whether they consulted the law officers of the Crown, the Advocate-General or the Public Prosecutor and, if so, what their opinion was, and also whether, when the Government came to the conclusion that there was no case to go before a court of law to prosecute the man, they acted on the advice of their law officers or whether they acted as mere executive officers ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" The matter came up before the Government and was considered by them. What advice the law officers gave and whether we took advice are matters of which we do not generally give the details. I may assure the hon. Member that the legal aspect of the matter was considered."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" I do not ask for the details of the advice at all. I am asking a question of fact whether any law officer was consulted, whether his opinion was before the Government and whether the Government will be pleased to state who was the law officer consulted, an *ad-hoc* law officer appointed for the purpose, or statutory officers who usually advise the Government on such matters ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I want notice, Sir."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—" The hon. the Law Member said that unfortunately he could not remember the amount of compensation paid

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to the deceased. Will he be pleased at least to state whether the compensation granted to the deceased was found adequate taking into consideration the loss incurred by the family in the death of that man ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" It was in that feeling that compensation was ordered."

Cultivable lands thrown out of cultivation in South Kanara, etc.

* 123 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Home Member, the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased—

(*a*) to place on the table of the House a statement showing the areas of cultivated lands thrown out of cultivation on account of the increase of malaria and wild beasts, etc., as a result of the rapid development of reserve forests in South Kanara, Malabar, Coimbatore and Nilgiris districts during the last twenty-five to fifty years ; and

(*b*) to state what preventive steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have no reason to think that any land has been thrown out of cultivation owing to the causes alleged. The area of cultivation has, on the other hand, largely increased.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" With reference to the answer to this question, may I ask the Government on what grounds they have given that answer ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" We have got facts and figures supporting the answer given. I will read out the figures for the information of this hon. House :—

	Fasli.	Acres.
The lands thrown open for cultivation in South Kanara in	1314	738,732
Do. do. ...	1334	944,558
The lands thrown open for cultivation in Malabar	1304	943,424
Do. do. ...	1334	1,343,088
[a] The lands thrown open for cultivation in Coimbatore	1304	2,409,805
Do. do. ...	1334	2,307,555
The lands thrown open for cultivation in the Nilgiris	1304	1,999,058
Do. do. ...	1334	192,024

[a] The decrease of 102,250 acres is due to the transfer of Karur taluk to the Trichinopoly district in Fasli 1320.

From these figures it will be seen that the area under cultivation has largely increased."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" My question is not whether the area has increased. Naturally there must be some increase in the area under cultivation. My question is whether, on account of increase of forests, lands have been thrown out of cultivation in the Nilgiris, etc. That question has not been answered ? "

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The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" My object in reading out those figures is to show that no land has been thrown out of cultivation."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" There have been repeated complaints made by the people of the villages bordering the Ghats near Mercara, etc., that large areas have been thrown out of cultivation on account of forests. I want to know whether the Government made enquiries ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Government have made enquiries and I have read the figures to the House just now."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know whether any cultivable lands have been converted into reserve forests in those districts ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I want notice, Sir."

Local Fund Audit

Expenditure on the Local Fund Audit Department.

124 *Q.*—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state districtwar—

(*a*) the expenditure incurred every year from the date of establishment on the Special Local Fund Audit Department ; and

(*b*) the special features of work, if any, which may be considered an improvement on the old order of things ?

A.—(*a*) The Local Fund Audit Department was organized in its present form on the 1st December 1923. The following statement shows by districts the annual cost of Local Audit for the two complete years for which the department has existed in its present form :—

District.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	RS.	RS.
Ganjam	10,003	8,506
Vizagapatam	12,934	12,552
East Godavari	13,594	10,513
Kistna	12,330	9,995
Guntur	16,978	19,213
Nellore	7,153	9,540
Bellary	7,075	7,217
Kurnool	9,141	7,290
Cuddapah	7,489	6,372
Anantapur	8,897	7,044
Chittoor	8,011	6,340
South Arcot	9,167	8,263
Tanjore	13,389	12,863
Trichinopoly	16,225	17,452
Madura	10,854	10,407
Ramnad	9,246	7,655
Tinnevelly	9,814	7,927

Districts.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	RS.	RS.
Malabar	13,903	11,122
South Kanara	9,456	5,752
North Arcot	9,800	8,783
Salem	12,470	9,788
Coimbatore	10,995	10,457
The Nilgiris	2,770	1,175
Chingleput	7,300	7,392

(*b*) The advantages of the present system are—

(1) The compilation of accounts, which is the duty of the local body, is done by a different agency from that which conducts the audit, for which the Local Government is responsible.

(2) Audit work requires special training and experience which could not be ensured under the old system. Under the present system, the whole staff is specialized in audit work and is therefore more efficient.

(3) Under the old system municipal accounts were audited only once in six months; now they are audited either monthly or quarterly and in consequence irregularities and losses are discovered and brought to light much more promptly than under the old system.

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*b*) of this question, I want to know from the hon. the Finance Member what specifically has accrued as an advantage in this case. Because, I see that the department has been in existence for three years and the hon. Member must be in the know as to how far the advantage claimed from experts is there ? "

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" I am afraid I do not follow the hon. Member."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" I shall make myself clear. The answer to clause (*b*) is :

'(1) The compilation of accounts, which is the duty of the local body, is done by a different agency from that which conducts the audit, for which the Local Government is responsible.

(2) Audit work . . . more efficient.

(3) Under the old system . . . system.' What I asked was this : What is the special feature of the work, if any, which may be considered an improvement on the old order of things, the department having been in existence for three years and the statement having been made that the special department is capable of doing this, that and other things ? May I know, with regard to audit work whether they have been more efficient and whether any particular incident in the history of the department shows greater efficiency in preference to the efficiency that could be expected under the old order of things. I wish also to know whether any irregularities and losses apprehended in the old system have been discovered in larger numbers and if so, what the advantage to the Government has been by such a system of specialization. That is what I want to know."

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The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" The answer to the first part of the question as to what are the special features of the work, if any, which may be considered an improvement on the old order of things has been given. The principal advantages are clearly stated in the answer. As to the further question as to whether irregularities and losses have actually been discovered under the new system I am afraid I must ask for notice."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" I am afraid the hon. the Finance Member does not catch me. I was asking the figures for the last three years to show the improvements effected, and the special features of the new system ?"

The hon. the President :—" They are given in the answer to clause (b)."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" If it is a question regarding the principles on which the specialization was thought necessary, the answer would be sufficient. But as it is a question of improvements on the old system, I expected a more detailed answer. Now, if he wants notice I am agreeable."

Local Boards

Bifurcation of the Kistna District Board.

* 125 Q.—Mr. D. Narayana Raju : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether there were any proposals to bifurcate the present Kistna District Board ; and

(b) if so, when the bifurcation is going to be effected ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Mr. D. Narayana Raju :— " The proposals for bifurcation have been pending for the last two years. May I know what the matters are that are under further consideration and prevent the bifurcation being given effect to at once ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" The Government have now finally decided to bifurcate the Kistna district."

Mr. D. Narayana Raju :—" May I know the probable date on which effect will be given to it ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" It is very likely that it may take effect on 1st April 1927."

Mr. D. Narayana Raju :—" The present District Board has got several funds in the shape of railway cess, etc. When the board is bifurcated, these should be divided between the two boards. Now, the president of the board has been spending large sums out of that sum. He has already spent nearly 3 or 4 lakhs and the lion's share of it is going to one part of the district only."

The hon. the President :—" That question does not arise out of the answer given."

Mr. D. Narayana Raju :—" I am putting a separate question. "

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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Is the question connected with the answer given ? "

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government have framed any scheme determining the number of members for each taluk board ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" We have not yet definitely decided those things."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that in March contracts for roads and tolls will be given and, if so, whether they will be pleased to issue orders prohibiting such things till the bifurcation is effected ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I am afraid these things have to take their natural course and cannot be stopped."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether the hon. Minister has been corresponding with the Collector with regard to the names of persons to be nominated ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I want notice."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state why those matters were delayed so long ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I am sure the hon. Gentleman is aware that I have been in charge of the department only for the last two months. That being the case, I think he will agree with me that I have taken the matter in hand in an expeditious manner."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether any names have been suggested by the Government ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question does not arise."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether the President will be nominated or elected ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" That question does not arise."

Nominations to taluk boards in West Godavari district.

*126 Q.—Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the administration of four out of five taluk boards in West Godavari district was being carried on by only four nominated members in each board for the last one year and, if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) why the Government have omitted the names of most of the elected members in nominating members for the taluk boards which are newly constituted as per Notification No. 1428 (published on page 520 of Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 21st December 1926) ;

(c) why the Government have nominated as members of the said taluk boards persons who were defeated in the elections in preference to the sitting elected members ;

(d) why the Government have nominated for the said boards two or more persons from the same village overlooking the claims of several circles without any representation ;

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(*e*) whether the Government intend to give the right of election of presidents to the newly constituted taluk boards; and

(*f*) whether it is proposed that the new taluk boards should function for a whole year or for any lesser period?

A.—(*a*) Yes, from the 10th March 1926 in the case of the Ellore and Yernagudem Taluk Boards and the 31st March 1926 in the case of the Tanuku and Narasapur Taluk Boards. The Tanuku Taluk Board had however one elected member also. The question of reconstituting the taluk boards with all the members nominated under section 240 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, had been under consideration since May 1926 and it was not considered necessary to hold elections for the taluk boards. Orders were issued in December last giving effect to the reconstitution from 1st February 1927.

(*b*) As far as possible the Government have appointed to the new taluk boards the elected members of the old taluk boards. Ten of these could not be appointed for one or more of the following reasons:—

(i) The total number of members for the old five boards was 70 while the strength of the new boards is 60 at the rate of 12 members for each board.

(ii) In consequence of the transfer of villages from one board to another some of the elected members could not be appointed to the boards in whose jurisdiction they resided, as there were other elected members in the same area to be provided for.

(iii) Proper representation had to be given to the backward classes and minority communities on the new taluk boards.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government had no information on the specific points mentioned in these clauses. They had no reason to refuse to accept the nominations submitted to them.

(*e*) The reconstituted boards have been permitted to elect their presidents.

(*f*) The members of the new boards have been appointed for one year.

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU:—" With reference to the answer to clause (*a*), that elections were held up from May 1926 till 1st February 1927, may I know what was the reason for depriving the people of the right of election, pending consideration by Government of the proposal for reconstituting the taluk boards? When the taluk boards are reconstituted, there may be fresh boards before reconstitution took place it was given effect to, why should elections be held up?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" I am sure the hon. Member is aware that I am not responsible for that."

(Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—" But the Government is responsible".)

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Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" Do not the records show any reason for holding up the elections ? "

The hon. Dr P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I think the Government acted on the advice of the President, District Board."

11-45 a.m. Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, with reference to the answer to clauses (c) and (d), may I know whether the Government merely acted as a registering office and accepted the nominations sent up to them, without making any enquiries and calling for information on such relevant points mentioned in clauses (c) and (d) of the question ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" If Government think that any enquiries are necessary, they would make enquiries ; evidently in this case, they thought that no such enquiries were necessary."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" May I know who submitted these nominations ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The President, District Board."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" May I give this information to my hon. Friend that in nominating members to the new taluk boards, several elected members of the old taluk boards were excluded while defeated candidates were nominated, and ask him whether such a procedure is justified in his opinion ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" That is asking for my opinion."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am not asking for his opinion, Sir. Though nominations of defeated candidates were sent up and confirmed by his predecessor, may I ask him if he will turn a new leaf in the chapter and ask for information with regard to the nominations, whether they are of defeated candidates and so on ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" My hon. Friend knows enough about me to know that I shall do so."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" But when these nominations were sent up, why did not my hon. Friend ask for the necessary information ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The matter had gone to such a head at that time that I could not do anything."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" Is there any policy or principle involved in the nomination of defeated candidates ? "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Lack of principle ! "

Roads connecting Malabar with South Kanara.

* 127 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to refer to the answer to my question No. 2271, dated 17th July 1926, and to state—

(a) what roads there are connecting Malabar with South Kanara ; and

(b) if there are none, whether Government have decided to make the required roads for connecting the two districts?

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A.—(*a*) None.

(*b*) The Government have not decided to make the roads in question. They will enquire from the District Boards of Malabar and South Kanara whether they propose that the existing roads in their districts should be extended to meet on the boundary.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I enquire why the South Kanara district is not connected by roads with the rest of the Presidency ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I am sure the hon. Member knows that South Kanara is connected with Mercara by road."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Mercara is not part of the Presidency. How does it happen that my district is not connected with Malabar and the rest of the Presidency ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" My hon. Friend, who knows the features of the districts better than I do, will understand that it is a matter of spending several lakh s of rupees."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Is it because that South Kanara is a negligible part of the Presidency ? "

Many hon. Members :—" No, no."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I am sure that the South Kanara district will not be neglected, as long as we have Mr. Saldanha."

MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur :—" Will the Government consider the question, if a resolution is passed by the District Board of South Kanara to open up the road communication with Malabar ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Government will consider the question when the proposal comes up."

Bifurcation of the Chingleput Taluk Board.

*128 *Q.*—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is a proposal before the Government of Madras to bifurcate the taluk board of Chingleput ;

(*b*) whether the taluk board of Chingleput has passed a resolution against the proposal, and whether the Collector of Chingleput also is against the proposal ; and

(*c*) whether the Government have passed orders in the matter, and if so, to what effect ; if no order has been passed, what is the reason for the delay, and when the final order can be expected ?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The decision of the question has been deferred.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know, Sir, for how long this question has been deferred ?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The question was deferred to be considered again at the end of the financial year."

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Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"May I know the reason for the delay especially when the opinions of the Collector and the taluk board are there?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"Government are examining the possible advantages of such a bifurcation."

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar :—"Is it a fact that the Collector has opined that the proposal was prompted by political considerations?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"I believe people did think so."

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar :—"In view of the fact that a resolution has been tabled on this subject and in view of the statement of the hon. Minister that the Local Boards Act will be amended, may I ask the hon. Minister to postpone the consideration of this question till the Act is amended?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"I shall consider the matter carefully."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—"May I know from whom this idea of bifurcation originated at first?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"I want notice of the question."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—"What was the danger that was suddenly apprehended to avert which this bifurcation was proposed?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"It was found that the area was rather too large to be under one taluk board."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—"From what source did this information reach the Government?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"From the President, District Board."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—"What was the approximate date when this information was sent to the Government?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"I want notice of the question."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—"What are the special circumstances of this taluk board for considering its bifurcation apart from so many other taluk boards in the Presidency?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"I want notice of the question."

Public Works

Public Works subdivisions in South Kanara and Malabar.

* 129 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Public Works subdivisions in the districts of South Kanara and Malabar with their headquarters;

(b) whether it is proposed to transfer the headquarters of the Northern subdivision now at Mangalore to Tellicherry and, if so, on what grounds; and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take?

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A.—(*a*) There is one Public Works subdivision in the South Kanara district called the Northern subdivision with headquarters at Mangalore, and another subdivision in the Malabar district called the Southern subdivision with headquarters at Calicut.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Government understand that the Executive Engineer, West Coast division, has proposed the transfer of the headquarters of the Northern subdivision to Tellicherry mainly on the ground that the majority of works are in the North Malabar district while in the South Kanara district there is very little work except in Mangalore and that in consequence large expenditure on travelling allowance, much inconvenience and waste of time are caused by the headquarters being at Mangalore. The Superintending Engineer has asked the Executive Engineer to bring forward the proposal after the question of forming a third subdivision which is under consideration has been settled.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I ask how it happens that there are so few public works in South Kanara while all the works are concentrated in Malabar thereby requiring two divisions ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" I thought the hon. Member wanted to know the number of divisions and whether there was any proposal to transfer the headquarters of one of them from Mangalore to South Kanara. But now my hon. Friend wants some other information. The proposal for transfer is perhaps due to the paucity of works, I can't say."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" Sir, our district is neglected in such a manner that there are not a sufficient number of public works and they are going to remove the headquarters . . ."

The hon. the President :—" The question why South Kanara is made to starve in the matter of public works does not arise out of this question."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Civil Justice

Munsif's Court for Anantapur town.

130 *Q.*—Mr. A. Parasurama Rao : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the High Court of Judicature at Madras recommended a Munsif's Court for Anantapur town ; and

(*b*) whether any orders have been passed thereon by the Government ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

Sub-Court at Cuddapah.

131 *Q.*—Mr. A. Parasurama Rao : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) for what period was the present Sub-Court at Cuddapah established

(b) whether there is any requisition from the High Court of Madras for continuing it and, if so, for what period ;

(c) whether a provision was made in the last budget to continue it till the end of March ; and

(d) whether the hon. Member will be pleased to continue it till the end of August 1927 ?

A.—(a) The Court was established in January 1926. Its retention has been sanctioned up to the commencement of the summer recess for 1927.

(b) & (d) No proposals have been received from the High Court on the subject.

(c) Provision has been made in the budget for the continuance of the Court throughout the current financial year.

Elections

Alleged interference of municipal servants in the elections in Tiruvannamalai.

132 *Q.*—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar : Will the hon. the Law Member, the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman, Municipal Council, Tiruvannamalai, and the Vice-President, Taluk Board, Tiruvannamalai, issued printed appeals to the public and voters of North Arcot to vote for certain persons out of those who stood as candidates for election to the rural non-Muhammadan constituency in North Arcot district during the last election ;

(b) whether such appeals were regularly 'served' on all voters in the municipal area of Tiruvannamalai, by the municipal servants ;

(c) whether the Government will be pleased to enquire into the matter ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Vice-President, Tiruvannamalai Taluk Board, is also a village maniyagar ; and

(e) whether this maniyagar was exempted from the general rule that Government servants should not take sides with or on behalf of any particular candidate in the elections ?

A.—(a) (b) & (d) The Government have no information.

(c) Yes.

(e) Village officers are not whole-time Government servants for the purpose of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules.

Rearrangement of polling stations in Anantapur.

133 *Q.*—Mr. A. Parasurama Rao : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representations were made to the Collector of Anantapur to rearrange the polling stations for the elections to the Legislatures ;

(b) whether they were all rejected ; and

(c) whether the Government propose to send for the papers and look into the matter and arrange better facilities for voters in future ?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information.

(c) The Government will look into the matter.

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Irrigation

Contributions from ryots for irrigation works in Tanjore district.

134 *Q.*—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether his attention has been drawn to the resolution of the Tanjore Irrigation Advisory Board of the Cauvery Delta, dated 18th September 1926, and published in the 'Hindu' of the 21st September 1926, requesting the Government to undertake all works necessary for the irrigation of wet lands without asking for contribution from the ryots unless such work be entirely intended for the benefit of any particular ryot;

(*b*) if so, whether the principle of this resolution has been accepted by the Government; and

(*c*) if not, why not?

A.—(*a*) The Government have now perused the resolution in question.

(*b*) & (*c*) Generally, all works which are considered necessary for the irrigation of lands in the delta are carried out by the department. The criterion adopted with regard to the levy of contributions from ryots is whether the proposed work is necessary from the point of view of Government as representing the general taxpayer, or whether it is one that will benefit only particular individuals.

Repairs to the irrigation channel of Sirunamalli village.

135 *Q.*—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that an estimate for repairing the irrigation channel of Sirunamalli village of Arkonam taluk, North Arcot district, was prepared some years back;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that it has not yet been sanctioned; and

(*c*) whether the hon. Member will be pleased to enquire into the same and cause repairs to be executed at an early date?

A.—The Government have no information but will ask the Chief Engineer to look into the matter.

Estimate for the Girisola channel.

136 *Q.*—Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) when an estimate was prepared for the Girisola channel in the Goomsur division (Ganjam district);

(*b*) the date on which Government sanctioned the estimate;

(*c*) the money spent in constructing the work up to the end of December 1926; and

(*d*) when Government propose to complete the work?

A.—(*a*) An estimate for the channel was finally submitted to Government in May 1926.

(*b*) In June 1926.

(*c*) Nil.

(*d*) According to the present arrangements, the work is proposed to be taken up in 1928–29.

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Widening of the bunds of minor channels in Trichinopoly district.

137 Q.—Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is a proposal to widen the bunds of the minor channels in the Trichinopoly district under the control of the Public Works Department so as to allow motor traffic;

(*b*) whether representations have been received from the ryots objecting to the proposal; and

(*c*) whether any, and, if so, what action has been taken by the Government?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) & (*c*) Do not arise.

Repairs to the Elandavathalai channel.

138 Q.—Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Elandavathalai channel and its korambu were spoilt by the floods of 1924;

(*b*) whether they still continue to be in the same condition;

(*c*) whether the Government have taken any steps to repair them; and

(*d*) if not, why not?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) In place of the north branch channel which was completely washed away and of the south branch channel which was partly washed away, a new common channel as far as the Murungapettai breach and the north branch through the sanded area has been excavated. An estimate for the construction of a new combined head for the Puduvathalai and Elandavathalai channels is under preparation with the Superintending Engineer, Trichinopoly Circle, who has been asked to expedite it.

Action taken on the report of the Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee.

139 Q.—Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what action has been taken on the report of the Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee; and

(*b*) whether the report and the conclusions of the Government thereon will be placed on the table?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to G.O. No. 1973 I., dated the 16th December 1926, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

Legislative Council

Representation to the Andhra University on the Legislative Council.

140 Q.—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have promised, in their Memorandum, dated 10th September 1926, that His Excellency the Governor will consider the question of according representation to the Andhra University on the Legislative Council by means of nomination when the new Council is constituted, on the Registrar's proposal to constitute the said University into a separate constituency for electing a member to the Legislative Council; and

(b) whether the Government propose to accord representation to the Andhra University now on the Legislative Council as per the said promise?

A.—(a) It was stated that the question of according representation to the University on the Legislative Council by nomination would receive the attention of His Excellency the Governor.

(b) Nominations are made by His Excellency the Governor.

Police

Restoration of police stations in Cuddapah district.

141 Q.—Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many police stations were abolished in Cuddapah district during the last retrenchment;

(b) whether the abolition was on the ground that the citizens have begun to lead a peaceful life;

(c) whether there was any decrease in crime in the localities where such police stations have been abolished; and

(d) whether the hon. Member will consider the desirability of restoring these police stations?

A.—(a) Four.

(b) & (c) The reasons for the abolition were that investigation work was light in those stations, the number of crimes reported annually being small.

(d) The reallocation of police stations was recently sanctioned by Government as a measure of retrenchment, after a careful consideration of proposals worked out by a special officer and examined by the Inspector-General of Police. An alteration in the allocation of one police station in a district would generally upset the whole scheme for the district. The Government cannot therefore reconsider the arrangements in particular localities save in exceptional circumstances.

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Assignment of Lands

Assignment of disafforested lands in Cheyyar taluk.

142 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that two large blocks of disafforested land in Sholavaram and Nedungal reserves in Cheyyar taluk in North Arcot district are available for assignment;

(b) whether any portion thereof has been or is proposed to be set apart for assignment to landless caste Hindu ryots; and

(c) if not, why not?

A.—(a) The Sholavaram reserve, the Sholavaram extension reserve, and the Nedungal reserve have been disforested, the two former in 1919 and the last in 1924. The Government are not aware of the area, if any, assigned so far.

(b) & (c) The Sholavaram lands were set apart for assignment to distinguished soldiers, recruits and members of the depressed classes. The Government are not aware of any proposal to reserve land for assignment to caste Hindu ryots.

Assignment of lands to depressed classes in Nellore district.

143 Q.—Mr. G. PREMAYYA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state how many acres of land were already granted and how many are proposed to be granted to the depressed classes in Nellore district?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the figures contained in statement VIII annexed to the Administration Report of the Labour Department for 1925–26 which has been placed on the Editors' Table. These are the latest figures available.

Assignment of lands to Mr. J. C. Aranha.

144 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: With reference to the answer to my question No. 2435 of 1st September 1926, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) what orders have been passed on the petitions of Mr. J. C. Aranha on behalf of his son Mr. T. M. Aranha for grant of lands on account of military services; and

(b) what rules have been made to remove all doubts as to the bar of limitation by time and character of military services rendered for title to grant of lands?

A.—(a) The Government found that the applicant's claim to be treated as a combatant could not be accepted and that while he had been applying for lands the assignment of which was objectionable he did not take advantage of a reasonable offer of land in Ullal village. The Government therefore declined to interfere on his behalf.

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(*b*) Orders have been issued by the Government to the effect that if a non-combatant had applied for land before 14th April 1924, he should when making a further application be considered eligible for the concessions for which he was eligible before 14th April 1924 except in cases in which the land at first applied for was not available for assignment and the fresh application was made after great delay and subsequent to 14th April 1924.

Constitution of districts, divisions and taluks

Location of the Divisional office at Gannavaram.

145 Q.—Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government intend to change the name of Nuzvid Revenue Division in Kistna district into Gannavaram Revenue Division; and

(*b*) whether the Government intend to locate the Divisional office at Gannavaram, but not at Nuzvid in case it is shifted from Bezwada?

A.—(*a*) There is no such proposal before the Government.
(*b*) There is no such proposal.

District Collectors

Personal Assistants to District Collectors.

146 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. Swami: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any personal assistants attached to District Collectors;

(*b*) if so, how many; and

(*c*) whether there is any intention of abolishing these offices altogether from the next year.

A.—There are no personal assistants attached to District Collectors.

Land Revenue

Alleged dismissal of employees in the Revenue Department.

147 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have issued any orders that in the Revenue Department clerks and other departmental employees may be suspended on mere suspicion and without proof of any charge of misconduct;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Treasury Deputy Collector of Cuddalore first suspended and then dismissed one Syed Ahmed, an attendant in the Account Section of the Collectorate on mere suspicion without satisfactory evidence;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the dismissed attendant appealed to the District Collector against the action of the Treasury Deputy Collector and that the attendant was eventually restored to his office; and

(*d*) what steps are being taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of similar cases in future?

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A.—(*a*) The hon. Member is referred to paragraph 6 of the instructions in Board's Standing Order No. 133.

(*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) The Government have no information concerning the case in question. They do not propose to take any action as it would appear from the question itself that the Collector has dealt with the matter.

Grievances of ryots in Anchetti village.

148 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a copy of the proceedings of the Anchetti Village Panchayat, Hosur taluk, Salem district, dated 21st November 1926, regarding the grievances of the ryots of the said village; and

(*b*) what steps the Government have already taken or intend to take by way of relieving the distress of the ryots in the said Anchetti village?

A.—(*a*) The Government have received a copy of a proceedings dated 21st November 1926 passed by the Panchayat in question.

(*b*) The copy of the proceedings has been transferred to the Board of Revenue for disposal.

Remission of taxes in North Arcot district.

149 *Q.*—Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in the district of North Arcot, owing to failure of rains this year, there will be practically no harvest in most taluks and as a consequence the district is threatened with famine; and

(*b*) whether any instructions have been issued to the District Collector to grant liberal remissions and to revenue officers to avoid stringent measures in the collection of tax where they arise?

A.—(*a*) No. Dry crops have been very fair and only wet crops have failed in parts.

(*b*) Government have issued instructions to Collectors not to be overstrict this year in the exercise of the discretion given to them in determining what is total loss and not to collect amounts which are likely to be remitted.

Principles underlying grant of remissions in collection of kists.

150 *Q.*—Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what are the principles underlying the grant of remissions in the collection of kists;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that a produce of twenty measures of paddy per acre will disentitle the ryot from seeking remission according to the system now prevailing;

(*c*) if the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, whether reaping the harvest itself in such cases will not cost more than twenty measures of paddy per acre and whether it is a fact that the ryot, in such cases, will get no produce at all from his lands; and

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(*d*) whether the Government propose to issue a Government Order instructing Revenue authorities to take a liberal view of remission applications this year?

A.—(*a*) The hon. Member's attention is drawn to the Board's Standing Orders Nos. 13 and 14 which contain the rules regulating the grant of remissions of land revenue.

(*b*) & (*c*) The rules do not specify any particular outturn as making the ryot ineligible for remission. The rates of assessment having been calculated on the hypotheses that they will be paid in all years good or bad, provision is made for remission in the case of wet lands only in the case of total loss and in the case of dry lands only as a measure of relieving distress over a wide area. Collectors have however been given some latitude in interpreting the term 'total loss'—vide Board's Standing Order No. 13, paragraph 5.

(*d*) The Government have issued instructions to Collectors not to be overstrict this year in the exercise of the discretion given to them in determining what is total loss and not to collect amounts which are likely to be remitted.

Alleged collection of fees for subdivision of lands.

151 Q.—Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Rs. 2 is collected from every owner of a field when he applies for subdivision of the same;

(*b*) when was that introduced;

(*c*) under whose authority;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that Re. 1 out of it is paid to the karnam as his remuneration and the other rupee is credited to the Government; and

(*e*) whether such a practice is in vogue throughout the Presidency or is it confined to some districts only; if to some districts only, why that distinction is made?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) In January 1924.

(*c*) The hon. Member is referred to G.O. No. 1649, Revenue, dated 8th November 1923, which was placed on the table of the House on 14th October 1924.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) It is in vogue throughout the Presidency.

Minor Irrigation

Additional sources of irrigation to lands in Kalavapudi village.

152 Q.—Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the extent of land under irrigation prior to 1924 in Kalavapudi village, Bhimavaram taluk, West Godavari district;

(*b*) the extent of land newly included in the ayacut in the said village and the sum collected as inclusion fees thereon, and when it was collected;

(c) the extent of land irrigated in the said village in the year 1926;

(d) whether it is a fact that no arrangements were made to supply water to the newly included lands; and

(e) whether there are any proposals to provide additional sources of irrigation to the said lands?

A.—The Government have not the particulars asked for and have called for a report.

Repairs to the irrigation channel of Rameswaram village.

153 Q.—Mr. A. Parasurama Rao: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the irrigation channel of Ramēswaram village in Proddatur taluk of the Cuddapah district was considered by the authorities as a kudimaramath channel;

(b) whether it is also a fact that neither the ryots nor the Government repaired the channel for some years past, but the land tax on the lands under the said channel was being collected all these years;

(c) whether the Collector ordered the ryots to pay one-half of the costs of the repairs and also directed the Municipality of Proddatur to pay some amount for the repairs of the said channel agreeing to give water to their drinking-water tank; and

(d) whether the Government propose to direct the Collector not to collect anything from the ryots for the repair of the channel as they have paid land tax for the years during which their lands were not cultivated?

A.—(a) to (c) The Government are not aware of the matters suggested.
(d) The Government do not propose to move in the matter.

Public Service

Provident fund for non-gazetted officers.

154 Q.—Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state whether Government are considering any proposal to substitute a scheme of provident fund for non-gazetted officers in this Presidency instead of pensionary contribution?

A.—Further consideration of this question is at present in abeyance.

Establishment of the Revenue and Labour departments.

155 Q.—Mr. G. Premayya: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state how many graduates and undergraduates from the depressed classes, Muhammadans and Christians of the Northern Circars were entertained in the Revenue and Labour departments from the year 1923 to 1927?

A.—The particulars required are not obtainable from any existing reports or returns and would have to be compiled specially at the expense of considerable time and labour which the Government do not feel justified in undertaking.

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Public Services Commission

Public Services Commission for the Madras Presidency.

156 Q.—Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether a Public Services Commission for the Madras Presidency will be formed and, if so, what will be its functions?

A.—The question is under the consideration of Government.

Staff Selection Board

Annual report of the Staff Selection Board.

157 Q.—Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Staff Selection Board submits any annual report to Government of the work done by it; and

(b) if so, whether it can be made available for the use of the Members of the Legislative Council?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The two reports received are placed on the table[a].

Survey and Settlement

Permanent Settlement in Ryotwari villages.

158 Q.—Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table all correspondence between the local Government and the Government of India relating to the subject of 'Permanent Settlement in Ryotwari Villages' since December 1921?

A.—The Government regret that they are unable to comply with the request.

Trichinopoly Town Reclamation Scheme.

159 Q.—Mr. T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any action has been taken by the Government in respect of the Trichinopoly Town Reclamation Scheme in connexion with the removal of sand from the Murungapettai area; and

(b) if not, why not?

A.—If the hon. Member refers to the scheme for utilizing the sand from the Murungapettai area to raise the level of about 120 acres of land near the St. Joseph's College, Trichinopoly, the answer is that since this scheme was propounded it has been proposed to excavate a high level channel which will command about a thousand acres of the Murungapettai sanded area, and that if this channel is constructed there will probably not be enough sand available to raise the level of the land in question. The construction of the high level channel is being investigated by the Chief

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a Printed as Appendix I on pages 113–120 infra.

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Engineer and until the receipt of his report it is not possible to pass orders upon the scheme for raising the level of the land near the St. Joseph's College.

Resettlement of Anantapur district.

160 Q.—Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any final orders have been passed regarding the resettlement of Anantapur district;

(b) whether any opportunity was given to the ryots before final orders were passed; and

(c) whether it is contemplated to hear the ryots before any final orders are passed?

A.—(a) & (c) The hon. Member is referred to G.O. No. 2070, Revenue, dated 3rd December 1926, which has been published.

(b) Yes. The scheme report was published on 13th February 1926 in the February issue of the *Anantapur District Gazette*. Three months' time was allowed to the ryots for making representations on the scheme. Memorials from the ryots were received and they were considered before orders were passed.

Village Establishments

Hereditary right of village officers of Tiruppattur taluk.

161 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the village officers of Tiruppattur taluk, North Arcot district, were deprived of the privilege of hereditary right some years back;

(b) if so, when and under what circumstances;

(c) whether it is a fact that such right exists in the rest of the North Arcot district;

(d) whether the village officers of Tiruppattur taluk have applied to Government for the restoration of this privilege; and

(e) what Government have done in the matter?

A.—(a), (b), (d) & (e) No. The village officers in the proprietary estates in the Tiruppattur taluk have a hereditary right to village offices while the village officers in the ryotwari villages of the taluk (the village of Chandrapuram being excluded) have not that right. They never had it and they were not deprived of it.

(c) Yes.

Grant of leave to village munsifs.

162 Q.—Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are any rules or regulations concerning the granting of leave of any kind to the village munsifs and headmen;

(b) whether village officers are subject to Civil Service Regulations;

(c) what is the maximum leave of any kind that a village headman can be granted without break under any circumstances;

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(*d*) whether Mr. K. T. Parthasarathi Reddi, the permanent village munsif of Erukenjeri firka and Siruvallore village, has been granted leave continuously for the last seven years, and, if so, for what special reasons;

(*e*) whether his being the President of the Saidapet Taluk Board is a sufficient reason for grant of such continuous leave; and

(*f*) whether the Government will be pleased to place all the connected papers regarding the case on the Council table?

A.—(*a*) The hon. Member is referred to paragraph 8 of Chapter I of Part I of the Village Officers' Manual and to paragraph 2 of Board's Standing Order No. 155.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) No maximum period has been fixed.

(*d*) *to* (*f*) The Government have no information concerning the case referred to.

Insufficiency of salaries of village officers.

163 Q.—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether representations have come to Government from the Village Officers' Association, Bheemavaram taluk, and Village Officers' Association, Gudivada taluk, and similar bodies about the insufficiency of the salaries and batta paid to village officers and village servants; and

(*b*) what action Government propose to take on them?

A.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The Government do not propose at present to take any action on them.

Appointment of additional karnams in Ceded districts.

164 Q.—Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether recommendations have been received from the Collectors of the Ceded districts to appoint additional karnams to any of the villages in those districts and if so, how they were disposed of?

A.—No such recommendations have reached the Government.

Forests

Issue of grazing permits in North Arcot district.

165 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Forest village system that was said to be very successfully working in North Arcot district for five years by class II Forest village panchayats was abolished;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that villagers were asked to pay 8 annas per cow unit under the panchayat system and whether this rate was fixed as grazing was limited to a certain fixed number of cattle;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that grazing permits were issued at the same rate to unlimited number of cattle;

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(*d*) what was the actual grazing revenue last year and this year; and

(*e*) what is the reason for fixing the grazing fee at 8 annas when the number of cattle is unrestricted while in other places the rate is only 3 annas?

A.—(*a*) Panchayats were abolished in case of reserves recommended for retention under the departmental control. The possibility of reviving the forest village system in these reserves is however being considered by the Chief Conservator of Forests.

(*b*) & (*e*) Yes. The grazing fee of 8 annas per cow unit represents the minimum grazing fee in respect of forests worked under the Forest Village System. This rate was fixed with the object of limiting the grazing incidence to the possibility of the forest.

(*c*) No. Permits were issued at the rate of 8 annas per cow unit up to the possibility and wherever there was demand for grazing permits in excess of the possibility—permits were issued at double rates, care being taken by the panchayatdars to distribute all the permits issued at the ordinary rate equitably among the villagers.

(*d*) The actual grazing revenue was Rs. 10,440-8-0 up to December 1925 and Rs. 10,848-8-0 up to December 1926. The grazing season commences in July and all permits are issued before the end of December.

Forest cases in Kurnool district.

166 *Q.*—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of forest cases reported in the Kurnool district during the years 1924–25, 1925–26, and 1926–27 (up to the 31st of December 1926) classified according to the nature of the offence, the amount of compounding fees collected under every such classified head, the amount of fines imposed under every such classified head by courts of law, the number of cases under every such classified head in which imprisonment was imposed by courts of law, and the minimum, the maximum and the aggregate of this form of punishment?

A.—Such information as the Government have is contained in the Administration Reports of the Forest Department of the Madras Presidency. The figures for the period 1st April to 31st December 1926 are not available but will be included in those for the year 1926–27 which will be issued in due course.

Removal of manure leaves for agricultural purposes.

167 *Q.*—Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether representations have been received from Trichinopoly and other districts bringing to the notice of the Government that the Public Works Department are objecting to the removal of manure leaves for bona fide agricultural purposes; and

(*b*) whether any, and if so, what action has been taken by the Government?

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A.—(*a*) & (*b*) No such representations have been received by Government.

Labour

Report of the Committee to consider amendments to Madras Planters' Labour Act I of 1903.

168 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the report of the Committee appointed to consider amendments to the Madras Planters' Labour Act I of 1903 in G.O. Mis. No. 109, dated 12th January 1926, has been received ; and

(*b*) whether the Committee recorded evidence and carried out investigation on the spot into the conditions prevailing on the estates before arriving at conclusions on the points referred to the Committee ?

A.—(*a*) The Committee has not submitted any report. The attention of the Member is invited to the answer given to clause (*a*) of question No. 9 asked at the meeting of the Council of the 24th January 1927.

(*b*) No.

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

169 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Government have addressed the Government of India on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act with special reference to the defects noticed by the Commissioner of Labour in his report of the Labour Department for the year 1925-26, regarding penalty for failure to deposit compensation under section 8 (1) and also failure to send returns under section 16 of the Act ?

A.—Yes.

Payment of wages and system of fines in factories in this Presidency.

170 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether opinions were invited from interested persons and organizations in the Presidency on the subject of (1) payment of wages, (2) system of fines prevailing in the factories in this Presidency ;

(*b*) if so, the names of persons and organizations asked to express opinions ;

(*c*) whether the Local Government have communicated their views on the subjects ; and

(*d*) if so, the nature of the proposals of the Government ?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*d*) At the instance of the Government of India, this Government consulted the Commissioner of Labour, the Board of Revenue, the Director of Industries and representatives of employers and employees on the two subjects referred to in the question. The Government have communicated their views to the Government of India on the subject of prompt payment of wages. The other subject is now under the consideration of

Government. The Government do not consider it desirable to disclose the nature of their views which form the subject of correspondence with the Government of India. It is probable that the Government of India will publish the replies received by them on the subject of the prompt payment of wages.

Weather Reports

Maintenance of weather reports in Ootacamund.

171 Q.—Mr. J. A. Davis: Will the hon. the Member for Finance and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether considering that Ootacamund is an All-India Hill Station and that the cost of maintaining daily weather reports is only about Rs. 200 per annum, the Government will be pleased to reintroduce the maintaining of weather reports in Ootacamund?

A.—The issue of daily weather reports is under the control of the Government of India.

Education

Criterion determining seniority among officers.

172 Q.—Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government and the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state the criterion which determines seniority among the officers of a service, e.g., Provincial Educational Service, Health Officers, District Board Engineers, etc.?

A.—Officers of the Madras Educational Service and Health Officers take rank according to the dates on which they are substantively appointed to the service. As regards District Board Engineers, the length of service in any grade put in by an officer and his record of work are the factors which ordinarily weigh with Government in determining his seniority.

Appointment of admission committees to colleges in Madras.

173 Q.—Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which admission committees were appointed to the several colleges in the Madras city?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to pages 698 to 701 of the proceedings of the Legislative Council held on the 2nd September 1921 in connexion with Resolution No. 104 moved by M.R.Ry. Rao Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai Avargal.

Provision of conveyances for Muhammadan Girls Training School at Trichinopoly.

174 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have received any memorial from the Muslims of Trichinopoly requesting for provision of conveyances for the Muhammadan Girls Training School at Trichinopoly; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

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A.—(*a*) Yes.
(*b*) It is under consideration.

Construction of the Senate House for the Andhra University.

175 *Q.*—Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether plans and estimates for the construction of the Senate House for the Andhra University at Bezwada are ready; and

(*b*) if so, when the Government propose to commence the construction of the Senate House at Bezwada?

A.—(*a*) Plans and estimates for the Senate House are under preparation in the Chief Engineer's office.
(*b*) Detailed proposals from the authorities of the University are awaited.

Status of Indian Catholic secular clergy and Protestant pastors as secondary grade trained teachers.

176 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: With reference to my question No. 2485 of 9th September 1926 regarding the status of Indian Catholic secular clergy and Protestant pastors as secondary grade trained teachers, will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what report has been received by the Government on the subject; and

(*b*) what orders have been passed?

A.—The Government have obtained a report from the Director of Public Instruction and have authorized him to deal with the case of each teacher on its merits.

Scheme for adult education by the Depressed Classes Mission, Mangalore.

177 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government, the hon. the Minister for Public Health and the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a scheme for adult education was submitted to the Government by the Depressed Classes Mission, Mangalore, asking for aid from Government;

(*b*) whether the Government while sympathising with the objects of the scheme, have expressed the opinion that the scheme does not contain sufficiently definite proposals or suggestions for action and that it does not come within the purview of the Madras Elementary Education Act and that therefore the District Educational Council cannot be asked to make any grants for the same; and

(*c*) whether it is proposed to amend the Madras Elementary Education Act with a view to bring adult education schemes within the purview of that Act or whether the Government propose to deal with such schemes under 'Special Education'?

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A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The question will be considered on receipt of the report called for from the Director of Public Instruction.

Adult education in this Presidency.

178 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have invited the opinions of the District Educational Officers and Collectors of districts on the subject of adult education ;

(*b*) whether any reports have been received so far ; and

(*c*) whether they propose to consult public opinion and the opinion of the Council before a definite scheme applicable to the Presidency as a whole is adopted ?

A.—(*a*) The Government have asked the Director of Public Instruction to investigate the extent to which un-official and honorary workers will be forthcoming to undertake the work of adult education and to report whether any form of special aid will be necessary to stimulate such form of social service. District Educational Officers and Collectors are being consulted on the subject by the Director of Public Instruction.

(*b*) The Director's report is awaited.

(*c*) The question will be considered after the Director's report is received and examined.

Adult education schemes by the Devadhar Malabar Reconstruction Trust, etc.

179 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government and the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to place on the table of the House the adult education schemes submitted by the Devadhar Malabar Reconstruction Trust, Calicut, and the Depressed Classes Mission, Mangalore, and the orders of the Government passed thereon ?

A.—The schemes submitted by the Devadhar Malabar Reconstruction Trust, Calicut, and by the Depressed Classes Mission, Mangalore, and a copy of the orders [a] passed thereon by the Government are placed on the table .

Local Boards and Municipal Councils

Vacancies in the Chingleput District Board.

180 *Q.*—Khan Bahadur S. K. ABDUL RAZACK SAHIB Bahadur : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) how the seats vacated by the following lady members have been filled up :—

(1) Mrs. Kamala Sathianathan on the Chingleput District Board and

(2) Mrs. Anna Thomas on the Tinnevelly Municipal Council ; and

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a Printed as Appendix II on pages 120–125 infra.

(*b*) the reasons for replacing lady members by male members?

A.—(*a*) (1) M.R.Ry. C. Muttayya Mudaliyar Avargal, B.A., was appointed to the Chingleput District Board in the place of Mrs. Kamala Sathianathan.

(2) Mr. W. R. S. Sathianadhan, I.C.S., Sub-Collector, Tinnevelly, was appointed to the Tinnevelly Municipal Council in the place of Mrs. Anna Thomas, L.M.P.

(*b*) The reasons for the first of the above appointments were stated in the answer to clause (*c*) of question No. 19, on the 24th January last. The reason for the second appointment was that the presence of the Sub-Collector would, it was considered, materially enhance the capacity of the Council to cope with its arduous duties.

Amendment of the Madras Local Boards Act and Madras District Municipalities Act.

181 *Q.*—Khan Bahadur S. K. ABDUL RAZACK SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the amendment of the Madras Local Boards Act and the Madras District Municipalities Act will be taken up in the near future; and

(*b*) if so, whether local bodies will be given an opportunity to criticize the provisions of the amending Bill before they are introduced in Council?

A.—(*a*) The amendment of the Acts is engaging attention.

(*b*) It will be open to any local body to offer its remarks on the amending Bills after thay are published for criticism.

Revision of the Madras Local Boards Manual and the Municipal Account Code.

182 *Q.*—Khan Bahadur S. K. ABDUL RAZACK SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any complaints have been received by Government of the inconvenience caused to local bodies and their members for want of up-to-date copies of the Madras Local Boards Manual and the Municipal Account Code; and

(*b*) whether action will be taken in the near future to revise these books?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The revision of the Manual and the Code will be taken up after the Bills to amend the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, and the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, are passed into law.

Preparation of voters' lists for elections to Arkonam Union Board.

183 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Special Officer who has been asked to conduct the elections to the reconstituted union board of Arkonam has allowed the names of several people who are not eligible to be on the voters' lists to be included in the voters' lists;

(b) whether it is a fact that he has attempted to do so in spite of the written protests of several voters ;

(c) whether Government are aware that the quarrels existing among the members of this union board have been 'litigated' in several courts and in the High Court as well ; and

(d) whether Government propose to enquire into the matter and pass early and final orders on the question of voters' lists ?

A.—(a) & (b) It was brought to the notice of the Government that the Special Officer, Arkonam Union, had included in the preliminary electoral roll the names of persons who had not paid their taxes for the year 1925-26 before the 31st March 1926. Under the rules a person who has paid his taxes before the final orders of the revising authority are passed on the electoral roll is entitled to have his name included in the roll, even though the payment is made after the 31st March of the preceding year. The correct procedure was pointed out to the Special Officer and to others who had addressed the Government on the matter.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Government will make an enquiry if facts are brought to notice which necessitate such a course.

Bifurcation of the Kistna District Board.

184 Q.—Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state when the present District Board of Kistna will be bifurcated into the District Boards of Kistna and West Godavari ?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 125.

Elected members to taluk boards in West Godavari.

185 Q.—Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the President, Kistna District Board, has kept the Taluk Boards of Ellore, Kovur, Narasapur and Tanuku in West Godavari under his jurisdiction running only with three or four members nominated by himself and with temporary presidents nominated out of them by himself without allowing the people to elect the remaining members from February 1926 to February 1927 ; and

(b) when the Government propose to give to the people the right to elect members to all the taluk boards in West Godavari ?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to clause (a) of question No. 126.

In consequence of changes in the areas of revenue taluks comprised in the local fund taluks it was necessary to reconstitute the latter and the question of reconstituting them under section 240 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, was under consideration since May 1926. It was not considered desirable to hold elections to them pending such reconstitution.

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(b) The taluk boards have been reconstituted with effect from 1st February 1927. The members of the reconstituted taluk boards have been appointed by the Government for a period of one year from 1st February 1927. After the expiry of this period the members of the taluk boards will be elected.

Enquiry into the affairs of Kistna District Board.

186 Q.—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received copies of resolutions passed by the Local Self-Government Conference, Kistna and West Godavari, held at Palacole, on 11th January 1927 under the presidency of Mr. D. Narayana Raju, M.L.C.;

(b) whether the Government have received copies of a book published by Rai Sahib C. K. Reddi, the leader of the bar in the Kistna district, the President, District Educational Council, and an ex-President, Taluk Board, Bezwada, entitled 'The Raja of Mirjapur—a few of his activities and achievements in the field of Local Self-Government'; and

(c) whether the Government propose to make a special enquiry into the affairs of District Board, Kistna?

A.—(a) & (b) Yes.

(c) The matter is being examined.

Alleged complaints against the President, Saidapet Taluk Board.

187 Q.—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Secretary to the Government received a memorandum from Mr. Bhaktavatsalu Mudaliyar alleging that the President of the Saidapet Taluk Board, who was also the Returning Officer for the election was working openly for a candidate in a taluk board election, and requesting the Government to appoint any other impartial officer as the Returning Officer;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government have replied that they cannot interfere in the matter; and

(c) whether the Government have considered the advisability of issuing a Government Order in the matter, providing for the appointment of an impartial officer as Returning Officer, when the president of a taluk board happens to work for a candidate in an election?

A.—(a) & (b) Yes.

(c) The Government expect the President of the Taluk Board, in his capacity of Returning Officer, to be fair and impartial. Until the contrary is shown to be the case, they see no reason to alter the existing practice.

Notices of encroachments to house-owners and shop-keepers in Rajampet.

188 Q.—Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that just before the last election to the Madras Legislative Council, about 40 notices of encroachments by the people of

Rajampet, Cuddapah district, were given to several owners of houses and shops in that union ;

(b) whether the Union Board President himself is living and keeping a shop in the area where there have been encroachments ;

(c) when the encroachments were made ;

(d) why they were not noticed by the President, Union Board, Rajampet, until the time of elections ; and

(e) how did he come to know of them just before the elections to the Legislative Council ?

A.—The Government have no information.

Nomination of Mr. B. V. Subba Rao as Chairman of Palacole municipality.

189 *Q.*—Mr. A. Parasurama Rao : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) why the Government renominated Mr. B. V. Subba Rao as the Chairman of Palacole municipality for a second time ;

(b) whether there was in the Municipal Council at the time of his renomination any of the members having equal or superior qualifications to those of Mr. B. V. Subba Rao ; if so, how many, and their qualifications educational or otherwise ; and

(c) what were the special circumstances which weighed with the Government in his renomination ?

A.—(a) & (c) Palacole is a young municipality and the Council had a costly water-supply scheme in contemplation. The Government therefore considered that a Chairman who had proved his competence should be retained at the head of the municipal administration.

(b) The Government are not aware that there were other councillors having qualifications equal or superior to those of M.R.Ry. B. V. Subba Rao. Their information is that no one was so well qualified.

Representation of Protestant Christians in South Kanara District Board.

190 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : With reference to my question No. 2469 answered on 4th September 1926, will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state what orders have been passed on the representation of Protestant Christians in the South Kanara District Board ?

A.—Having regard to the constitution of the Board, the Government found that the need for representation of other communities, who were unrepresented, was greater.

Agriculture

Functions, etc., of agricultural demonstrators.

191 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the functions of agricultural demonstrators ;

(b) the staff employed under each of them and their functions ;

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(c) how many days in a month they are expected to travel and stay at the headquarters ; and

(d) what staff, office accommodation and other facilities there are at the *headquarters* of each demonstrator for attending to public demands for seeds and manure, for answering queries and for placing the demonstrators and their staff in close touch with enterprising cultivators and agricultural advancement associations?

A.—(*a*) Their main duties are to get into touch with as many cultivators in their jurisdiction as possible, to study the local agricultural practices and explain and demonstrate to the ryots on their own lands such improvements as may have been decided upon. Their duties also in many cases include the supply of improved implements, seeds and manures from their depots or putting ryots in touch with suppliers of such articles. When demonstration plots are actually laid down, the agricultural demonstrators visit them frequently and instruct the ryots what to do, and they maintain cultivation sheets and at harvest time weigh or measure the crop. They also demonstrate the use of iron ploughs and simple implements like mhote wheels, etc. They distribute literature, attend fairs and festivals and meetings of co-operative societies in their jurisdiction as far as possible and exhibit and give lectures on improvements which can be readily adopted. They are, in short, general advisers to the ryots in all matters with which they can deal.

(*b*) Either a messenger or a demonstration maistri, or in some cases both, are attached to the agricultural demonstrator to help him with his demonstration work and to distribute seeds and implements stocked for sale and keep correct accounts of these.

(*c*) No minimum touring period has been fixed. As a rule, an agricultural demonstrator tours for about 20 to 25 days each month.

(*d*) No other staff beyond that stated in (*b*) above is provided. Usually there is a depot at his headquarters where seeds, implements, etc., are stocked for sale and, where these depots exist, they also serve the purpose of an office for the agricultural demonstrator.

Co-operative Societies

Co-operative societies in North Arcot district.

192 *Q.*—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state, with reference to his answer to question No. 2236 given on 17th July 1926,—

(*a*) whether it is not necessary for the Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies, under rule 3 of the rules framed under the Act, to satisfy himself that a society proposed to be started has reasonable chances of success with reference to the local conditions ;

(*b*) who registered the societies referred to in question No. 2236, especially the special types of societies ;

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(*c*) whether it is a fact that in the case of the Gudiyattam Weavers' Society and the Vellore Central Weavers' Depot Society, organization, registration and starting were almost simultaneous;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that no proper enquiry was conducted before registering these societies;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that a land mortgage bank was started in Ambur in the North Arcot district and that it is not able to do any work; and

(*f*) whether the Government will be pleased to enquire into the methods adopted by the present Deputy Registrar, Vellore, in organizing these non-credit and special type societies?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Presumably the then Assistant Registrar.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The Government have no reason to suppose that no proper enquiry was made.

(*e*) A land mortgage bank has been started at Ambur. The people in the locality pressed for it and its inception was received with enthusiasm but it did not start work. The Government understand, however, that it is now showing some signs of activity.

(*f*) In the absence of more specific statements, the Government see no reason to enquire.

Government aid to Weavers' co-operative societies near Tanur.

193 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Devadhar Malabar Reconstruction Trust applied to the Co-operative Department to recommend to Government two weavers' co-operative societies conducted near Tanur in Malabar for loans on easy terms;

(*b*) whether in that connexion the general question of State loans to Weavers' Societies was raised; and

(*c*) whether final orders have been passed by the Government on the subject?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have no direct information but the Secretary of the Trust probably did approach the Registrar in the matter. The question of financing these societies is bound up with the general question of reorganization of existing weavers' societies.

(*c*) Government will consider the matter when the special inspector deputed to reorganize co-operative societies amongst weavers has finished his work.

Registration

Appointments in the Registration department.

194 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) on what grounds it was stated by the late Minister for Education (Sir A. P. Patro) in answer to question No. 706, dated 21st March 1924,

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that the Indian Christians were excessively represented in the Registration department;

(*b*) whether, apart from the basis of population according to the calculation in answer to question No. 431, dated 22nd August 1924, Government have taken into consideration the higher literacy and the educational advancement of the Indian Christian community as compared with most other communities;

(*c*) what is the criterion laid down by Government for selecting candidates for appointment with due regard to the educational and other qualifications as well as numerical proportion of the population of a community; and

(*d*) whether the orders regarding the direct recruitment of candidates for the upper grades of the Registration department are still in force and, if so, what is the justification for them?

A.—(*a*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 431 given at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 22nd August 1924.

(*b*) Yes. As stated in the answer referred to there were in 1924, 35 Indian Christians employed as sub-registrars and probationary sub-registrars while the number admissible in proportion to population would be only 20.

(*c*) There is no quantitative criterion. The principles laid down in G.O. No. 658, Public, dated the 15th August 1922, are generally followed.

(*d*) The system of direct recruitment to the upper grade sub-registrars has been temporarily held in abeyance.

Excise

Cost of opium supplied by Government to shops and hospitals.

195 Q.—Mr. Daniel Thomas: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the value of the opium supplied by the Government to the opium shops in the Presidency of Madras during the period April—December 1926;

(*b*) what is the value of the opium supplied to the hospitals for medical purposes during the said period;

(*c*) what is the number of the licensed opium shops in the Tinnevelly district; and

(*d*) whether any restrictions are placed upon the shop licensees as to the total amount of opium which may be sold by them during a particular period of time?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have no information.

(*c*) The number of shops sold for the lease 1926–27 is 11.

(*d*) No general restrictions have been imposed regarding the total amount of opium which may be sold by licensees during a particular period of time but the Collector may, with the previous approval of the Commissioner of Excise, by notification at the time of auction sales, impose a maximum limit on the quantity to be sold under a licence.

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European liquor shops in prohibited areas.

196 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: With reference to my question No. 2388 of 28th August 1926, will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state what European liquor shops are still left in the area in which there is total prohibition of arrack?

A.—Foreign liquor shops are located at Shiyali, Tirutturaipundi, Tenkasi and Devakottai.

Public Health

Health officers working in municipalities.

197 Q.—Khan Bahadur S. K. ABDUL RAZACK SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the number of municipal councils which employ Health Officers; and

(b) whether there are any municipalities in which Government health officers are working independently of the Chairman and if so, have the Government received any reports as to the working of this system?

A.—(a) Twenty-six.

(b) No.

III

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

1. With reference to the undertaking given by the hon. the Law Member on 25th January last in the course of the debate on the motion for the adjournment of the business of the House regarding the Cauvery-Mettur Project, the Secretary laid on the table copies of G.O. No. 1974 I.[a] (Public Works and Labour Department—Irrigation), dated 16th December 1926, passing orders on the Chief Engineer's report on the recommendations of the Cauvery Committee.

2. With reference to the Legislative Council Resolution passed at its meeting of the 13th December 1921 and G.O. No. 42,[b] Finance, dated 11th January 1922, the Secretary laid on the table copies of the list of posts on Rs. 500 per mensem and above created during the quarter ending December 1926.

3. The Secretary laid on the table copies[c] of the proceedings of the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth meetings of the Finance Committee for 1926–27 held on the 5th, 6th, 7th, 10th, 11th and 27th January 1927, respectively.

4. The Secretary laid on the table copies[d] of the statement regarding the action taken by Government on resolutions passed in the Council during the last session.

5. The Secretary laid on the table copies of the progress report[e] for the financial year 1925-26 on the Cauvery-Mettur Project.

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a Placed on the Editors' Table.
b Printed as Appendix III on pages 126–128 infra.
c Printed separately.
d Printed as Appendix IV on page 129 infra.
e Printed as Appendix V on pages 130–140 infra.

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6. The Secretary laid on the table copies of the following Government Orders [a]:—

(i) G.O. No. 48, Development, dated 12th January 1927, recording the audit report of the Fruit Preserving Institute, Coonoor, for the year ending 31st March 1926.

(ii) G.O. No. 49, Development, dated 12th January 1927, recording the audit report of the Kerala Soap Institute, Calicut, for the quarter ending 30th June 1926.

(iii) G.O. No. 53, Development, dated 15th January 1927, passing orders on the audit report of the Russellkonda Saw Mill for the quarter ending 30th June 1926.

(iv) G.O. No. 112, Development, dated 25th January 1927, recording accounts and audit report of the Government Fisheries Cannery, Chaliyam, for the year ending 31st March 1926.

[*Note.*—An asterisk * at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

IV

ACT ASSENTED TO BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce that the undermentioned Act which was passed by the Council received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General on the date noted against it :— 12 noon.

The Madras Local Boards (Amendment) Act, 1926 .. 13th January 1927."

V

ELECTION TO THE SENATE OF THE ANDHRA UNIVERSITY.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce that the undermentioned Members were elected to the Senate of the Andhra University by the non-official Members of the Council resident in the university area :—

M.R.Ry. B. Ramachandra Reddi Ga u.
 „ G. Harisarvottama Rao Garu."

VI

VOTING OF GRANTS—INSTRUCTIONS FOR GIVING NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR REDUCTION OR OMISSION.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Before we proceed to the orders of the day, I should like to call the attention of hon. Members to a few points connected with the voting of grants which will commence on the 15th of this month. Under sub-rule (2) of rule 30 of the Legislative Council Rules, hon. Members will be at liberty, at that stage, to table motions for the reduction of a whole grant or for the omission or reduction of any item in a grant, but not to increase or alter the destination of a grant.

" Motions for reduction are generally moved for effecting economies or for censuring a Member of the Government or discussing his policy.

" Motions intended for the latter purpose are generally for token sums. Regarding them, I propose, following the practice of my predecessors in office, to insist on hon. Members mentioning in their notice of such motions, the object for which they are tabled. To prevent competition among hon. Members for precedence in respect of token motions intended for one and the same purpose, I would suggest to hon. Members that such motions may be

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a Placed on the Editors' Table.

for the reduction of a uniform sum of Rs. 100. Token motions by Leaders of Parties will be given precedence over similar motions by other Members. Token motions will be given precedence over motions for effecting economies.

"I may also mention that motions for the reduction of an item in a grant must have reference only to that particular item and not to the whole policy of the Government on other items also.

"For the convenience of hon. Members, blank forms of motions have been printed and are available in the office. They can be obtained by any hon. Member on application to the Assistant Secretary. It is requested that all the details required in the form will be duly filled in by hon. Members.

"Lastly, I should like to remind hon. Members, of proviso 2 to Standing Order 53 under which motions for the omission of an item in a grant or for the reduction of a grant or an item thereof shall be received up to 3 p.m. of the third day after the close of the general discussion of the budget, i.e., up to 3 p.m. on the 8th. Although proviso 3 of that Standing Order gives me discretion to admit new motions subject to such shorter period of notice as I may think fit, it is my intention to use this discretion only in cases where motions for omission or reduction are necessitated by reason of any event occurring after the 8th March."

VII

PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1927-28.

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir:—"Mr. President, Sir, in placing before the Legislative Council the Budget Estimates for the financial year 1927–1928 it is my intention in accordance with established custom briefly to review in the first place our financial fortunes in 1925–1926 for which the final figures are now available, and then to set forth the position as it will stand on the 31st March 1927 so far as it is known or can be estimated on the basis of the nine months figures which are at our disposal before dealing with our anticipated resources and proposals for utilizing them in 1927–1928.

"It will, I think, be to the greater convenience of Honourable Members if matter relevant to the Revenue accounts of these three years with which we are concerned is presented first and in consecutive form and then similarly all matter arising out of our Capital and Debt heads, their inter-relations being referred to where necessary. This is the only innovation in this year's speech introducing the Budget to which I need draw attention.

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Accounts of the year 1925-1926.

"2. The Revenue account of the year 1925–1926 opened with a balance of ·12 lakh. The Budget Estimate anticipated a revenue of 1,651·79 lakhs, and an expenditure of 1,622·21 lakhs increased to 1,649·13 lakhs by supplementary grants sanctioned during the year

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out of the remission of the contribution. The actual revenue was 1,693·60 lakhs and the expenditure 1,595·23 lakhs and the closing balance 98·49 lakhs.

"Under Revenue the increase of 41·81 lakhs was due to special non-recurring credits from the Government of India amounting to 19·71 lakhs under Pensions and Miscellaneous, to an additional recurring assignment of 4·84 lakhs sanctioned by the Government of India during the course of the year in respect of unified stamps, to a non-recurring item of about 13 lakhs, inclusion fees in the West Godavari and Kistna districts for which credit had not been taken in the budget, and to an improvement of about 7 lakhs in the Land Revenue collections owing to a favourable season. There were also special credits under Civil Works amounting to about 2 lakhs, while Incometax, a head not under our control, gave 4¼ lakhs under Devolution Rule 15 where nothing had been anticipated.

"On the other hand increased expenditure on repairs to irrigation works reduced revenue by 7·14 lakhs, Excise revenue fell short of the budget estimate by 4·88 lakhs mainly due to decreased consumption of country spirits, while book transactions in connexion with the commercialization of the Mount Stuart and Nilambur forests reduced revenue by 3·06 lakhs with a corresponding reduction in expenditure. Minor variations account for the small difference between the totals of these main items.

"Under the Expenditure heads a decrease of 3·44 lakhs under Land Revenue resulted from the appointment of tahsildars in connexion with records maintenance being delayed and from savings in respect of revenue inspectors and settlement parties. A reduction of 4·19 lakhs under Forests was mainly due to the commercialization of certain undertakings. Expenditure under Education fell short of anticipations by 6 lakhs mainly due to savings in the pay of teachers, on stipends, scholarships, and grants-in-aid to secondary schools. Under Public Health the allotment for the Bellary water-supply scheme was not fully expended and local bodies failed to utilize a considerable amount of the grant of 6¼ lakhs for rural water-supply, the short expenditure amounting in all to 4·81 lakhs. A decrease of nearly 3 lakhs under Industries was due to the cessation of manufacture in the Fruit Preserving Institute, the commercialization of the Madura Industrial Institute and other savings. Under Civil Works a decrease of 4·80 lakhs was largely due to local boards failing to utilize a grant of 6¼ lakhs for village communications and to the part lapse of the provision made for Government buildings. Interest charges were reduced by 2·66 lakhs. Our borrowings in 1924–1925 were reduced and a change in the date of

repayment resulted in an increase in the repayment of principal and a reduction in the amount adjusted under interest. A reduction of 5·74 lakhs under Police was due to temporary short recruitment and to the reallocation of Police divisions. Under Pensions a reduction of 4·06 lakhs was mainly due to the pensions paid at the Bangalore and Trivandrum treasuries being correctly debited to the Central Government. Lower market prices and various economies reduced Stationery and Printing charges by 4·26 lakhs. The Lee Commission concessions cost 3½ lakhs less than was anticipated. On the other hand, we had to pay in March 1926, 2·06 lakhs for opium for consumption in the first quarter of the current year; repurchase of the Pykara concession and the investigation of hydro-electric schemes cost 2 lakhs.

Estimates of 1926-1927.

" 3. Turning now to the Budget Estimates for the current year, they anticipated a revenue of 1,634·20 lakhs and an expenditure of 1,710·66 lakhs, leaving a deficit of 76·46 lakhs. Further demands which were voted by the Legislative Council involved an addition of 12·11 lakhs to the expenditure heads and a reduction in revenue of ·17 lakh. This would have resulted in a total deficit of 88·74 lakhs, but a further remission of 57 lakhs in the Provincial contribution reduced this figure to 31·74 lakhs.

" Our revenue is now estimated at 1,654·03 lakhs or 20 lakhs, in excess of the budget estimate. A decrease of 6½ lakhs under Land Revenue and of half a lakh under Registration is more than made good by an increase of 19½ lakhs under Excise, of nearly a lakh under Stamps, of nearly 2 lakhs under Forests and of half a lakh under Taxes on Income, while minor variations, *plus* and *minus*, under departmental receipts, Interest and Miscellaneous are expected to show a net improvement of 4 lakhs.

" 4. These figures relate only to the fluctuations within the year so far as we can at present gauge them. The Legislative Council may wish to know, with reference to these annual variations, whether there is any fixed standard of comparison by which we can judge one year by another or, what is more important, estimate the normal expansion of our revenues. There are four factors which complicate any attempt to arrive at such a standard. In the first place, the level of taxation must be the same and that restricts any comparison to the series of years beginning with 1922-1923 in which year the enhanced rates for stamp duties, court fees and registration fees came into force. In the second place, alterations or technicalities in the structure of the accounts have to be taken into account. As regards alterations, the most important concerns Opium. From 1925-1926 the gross sale-proceeds are shown as revenue, the cost

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price paid to the Government of India being shown as expenditure; previously, the net profit alone was shown under receipts. Again, in the case of Irrigation works for which capital and revenue accounts are kept, the working expenses are shown as a deduction from the departmental receipts. As they vary from year to year and represent expenditure, they have for purposes of comparison to be added to the expenditure figures instead of being shown as a reduction from receipts. Thirdly, almost every year shows its own special credits which are either restricted to the particular year or to a fixed number of years and then cease or recur at regular or irregular intervals. As examples may be cited ayacut inclusion fees in the Kistna and West Godavari districts which no longer exist, occasional adjustments of claims against the Government of India and receipts from pearl fisheries. Items falling under these categories are more or less capable of adjustment. The remaining factor is much more intractable. We talk of the gamble in rain, and at the same time use phrases which attribute to the seasons normality or divergence therefrom. In truth there is no normal season. The term may be predicated in a general sense of a particular tract or even district, but the Presidency is too vast and its geographical distribution too varied for the conditions of any particular season to operate equally throughout. A general statement is all that is possible and even such a general statement cannot be expressed in a definite revenue figure. The vicissitudes of each season set up tendencies favourable or the reverse to our revenues, but these tendencies do not affect each source of revenue equally or simultaneously nor is their operation confined to the financial year in which they first declare themselves. In a word, even if we could isolate a particular financial year as representing normal seasonal and economic conditions its revenue expression as disclosed by the financial accounts would be disturbed by influences carried over from previous years.

"But making such adjustments as are possible, the revenue of 1922–1923 was 1,634·44 lakhs, of 1923–1924, 1,678·01 lakhs, the increase being mainly under Excise and Stamps while Land Revenue declined, of 1924–1925, 1,676·74 lakhs, a heavy fall in Excise and Income-tax being almost counteracted by increases under Land Revenue and Stamps. The adjusted figures for 1925–1926 are * 16,99·48 lakhs or, if a sum of 10·46 lakhs representing the reduction in the outstanding balances of Land Revenue be excluded, 1,689·02 lakhs. We have thus an increase of approximately 54½ lakhs in three years or an average of about 18 lakhs a year, this in itself accompanied by fluctuations especially under 'Excise' which do not admit of adjustment to any norm. 12-15 p.m.

* Excludes special credits aggregating 16·70 lakhs, mainly inclusion fees in the West Godavari and Kistna districts, about 13 lakhs.

"5. Turning now to our expenditure for the current year the revised estimate is 1,617·81 lakhs as against the budget estimate of 1,665·77 lakhs, a fall of 47·96 lakhs. The main savings include 2·85 lakhs under Land Revenue due mainly to delay in the appointment of the second batch of Tahsildars for the maintenance of records, and savings under revenue inspectors and survey charges. An item of 7 lakhs does not represent any real saving. In 1925–1926 a special provision of 6·25 lakhs for rural communications and of 6·25 lakhs for rural water-supply was made in the budget. The amount actually disbursed in 1925–1926 was much higher than was anticipated and appears in the accounts of that year; the balance to be paid in 1926–1927 was therefore seven lakhs less than was expected. Apart from this paper saving, the main reduction, 21·58 lakhs, arose under short expenditure in Civil Works almost entirely on works sanctioned or under construction. This of course is merely deferred expenditure. A reduction of 2·61 lakhs under Administration of Justice represents mainly savings in the pay of Civilian District Judges on leave or on other duty and in the pay of establishments. Short recruitment and reallocation of police divisions account for a fall of 4·96 lakhs under Police, while a saving of 2·67 lakhs under Jails and Convict Settlements arises from a reduction in the jail population and the utilization of excess stores of raw materials in the manufacturing departments. A short expenditure of 6·70 lakhs under Education is due to delay in the selection of a site for the Madras University laboratories, to slow progress in opening schools by local bodies and in the construction of buildings for which grants had been provided, to savings in the pay of officers and to trained teachers not being available. An increase of 4·57 lakhs under Superannuation Pensions results from adjustments of outstanding debits and credits between the Central and the Provincial Governments. If our revised anticipations prove correct the revenue account of the year will show a surplus of 36·22 lakhs and including the opening balance will close with a balance of 134·71 lakhs which will become the opening balance for 1927–1928, with the revenue budget estimates for which we are now in a position to deal.

Budget Estimate for 1927-1928.

"6. The total revenue anticipated is 1,654·80 lakhs or three-fourths of a lakh more than the revised estimate of the current year. Income-tax is expected to give us an increase of 1·88 lakhs, and there will actually be a reduction of 1 lakh in revenue heads under our own control. Petty variations under service heads and Miscellaneous account for a reduction of 1·10 lakhs. Assuming favourable seasonal conditions Land Revenue is expected to give 754·86 lakhs, an increase of 14·81 lakhs, a small increase under Stamps and Registration will give an additional $1\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs, while Interest, that is to say,

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recoveries under the head of Loans and Advances by the Provincial Government will provide 23·34 lakhs, an increase of 2·54 lakhs. As will be explained later, this receipt is one which we have ourselves to pay again to the Provincial Loans Fund from which we borrow. Under Forests a reduction of 3·57 lakhs is accounted for by smaller revenue under sandalwood and by book transactions relating to the commercialization of the Chenat Nair Forests. The principal anticipated reductions in our revenue, however, occur under Excise 7·09 lakhs and under Revenue head XIII. Irrigation 8·33 lakhs. As has already been stated, expenditure on works for which capital accounts are kept is shown as a reduction of revenue, and the net *minus* figure after allowing for departmental receipts is 48·11 lakhs against 39·78 lakhs, the revised estimate for the current year. This is due to further provision for carrying out the recommendations of the Cauvery Committee and to additional allotments for the maintenance of the Kistna delta system. In the three years beginning with 1921–1922, the average net expenditure was 27¼ lakhs. The figures for 1924–1925 to 1927–1928 will represent a total expenditure in excess of that average of 52¼ lakhs due partly to the damage caused by floods and partly to improved standards of maintenance. We may hope for some measure of relief when the flood damages have been finally rectified and past neglect repaired.

" 7. Turning now to the estimate of expenditure, I would first direct attention to that expenditure which will be required in the coming year merely to carry on our existing commitments under recurring and non-recurring expenditure. It amounts to Rs. 1,642·34 lakhs or 24·53 lakhs in excess of the revised estimates for the current year; that is to say, after making provision for existing establishments and carrying on civil works under progress to completion or a further step towards completion we shall have in hand a balance of only 12·46 lakhs out of the year's revenue for additional expenditure. It must be remembered, however, that to obtain a correct comparison we must exclude from the revised estimate of the current year a sum of 65 lakhs, the provision for non-recurring and special items. The actual increase over the ordinary expenditure is therefore 89½ lakhs and is accounted for as follows: Additional expenditure due to increments under the time-scales of pay which have not yet reached equilibrium is estimated at 7½ lakhs. Our increased borrowings represent an addition to our debt charges under interest and repayment of principal of 13¼ lakhs. Pension charges have increased by 4 lakhs, and our obligatory payments under the Elementary Education Act by 2·38 lakhs. It will cost an additional 12⅔ lakhs to provide for a full year's expenditure in 1927–1928 in respect of sanctioned establishments which were either not recruited in full or employed only for

part of the year in 1926–1927. An additional sum of 5·83 lakhs is required for the normal development of our accepted educational programme. Other recurring items, including $1\frac{2}{3}$ lakhs for the improved maintenance of agency roads transferred to the Public Works Department, account for approximately 5 lakhs. The total additional recurring expenditure is therefore $50\frac{2}{3}$ lakhs. Additional non-recurring expenditure amounts to 38·87 lakhs, the main items being an increased provision of 15·91 lakhs for Civil Works in progress on which larger expenditure will be incurred in 1927–1928, 5·52 lakhs for the maintenance of irrigation works and 9·51 lakhs for roads and bridges. In brief, our ordinary recurring expenditure at the close of the coming financial year will have increased by $50\frac{2}{3}$ lakhs and if our revenues remain stationary there will be a residue of only 39 lakhs from which to meet such increases under incremental scales, pensions and debt charges as will fall due in 1928–1929. When these have been provided for, little will be left for new commitments.

"8. Reference may now be made to the principal new items for which we have provided in the budget of the coming year. From the financial point of view, these proposals are classified as 'non-recurring' and 'recurring'. A 'non-recurring' item of expenditure, e.g., the construction of a bridge, may take more than one financial year to carry out, but once completed in itself involves no further liability; a 'recurring' item is one which adds to the permanent charges, e.g., the opening of an additional court or of a new school. Schemes involving a recurring expenditure of 14·93 lakhs and a non-recurring expenditure of 76·37 lakhs in 1927–1928 were placed before the Finance Committee which gave special preference to schemes requiring an expenditure of 80·68 lakhs in 1927–1928 and a total commitment of 20·67 lakhs recurring and 213·95 lakhs non-recurring. These schemes together with a few minor proposals to which greater importance was attached by the departments concerned have been incorporated in the Budget. The Medical department and its twin sister, the department of Public Health, get a generous share of what is available, a total of 20·07 lakhs. The outstanding items are the remodelling of the General Hospital, Madras, and a new Headquarter Hospital, Madura. These two items, essential and belated though they be, conceal under a modest provision of 3 lakhs a total liability of 51 lakhs, and preclude our undertaking further big schemes of this kind for some years to come. Under Education a recurring expenditure of 4·99 lakhs and a non-recurring expenditure of 9·35 lakhs involve a total commitment of 24·32 lakhs. Buildings and equipment and grants for these purposes account for 6·97 lakhs and a liability of 13·71 lakhs, the opening of additional elementary

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schools will require 4·33 lakhs, and so rapidly is the demand for trained teachers exceeding the supply that a provision of 1·46 lakhs for training facilities has been found necessary. Under other departments a quiet extension of existing policies and programmes is the main feature; for example the activities of the Labour department will expand in its present sphere and be extended to two additional districts, it is proposed to open more sub-registry offices and veterinary dispensaries, and to make further progress with the housing of our police subordinates. Under Civil Works I ought to make reference to the construction of a bridge over the Cauvery near Sivasamudram to replace the historic and interesting structure which had withstood the floods of centuries to go down at last with others of much more recent date in the great flood of 1924. Its successor will cost 4·15 lakhs. A beginning will be made with the buildings required for the new district of West Godavari, and a co-ordinated programme for the improvement of communications in the Agency tracts initiated.

"The eye of each of our departments is apt to be larger than its digestive apparatus, and it is not possible for us to meet every demand put before us, but none can complain of stagnation and the quiet consolidation of the somewhat rapid developments of the last few years will make large calls on their administrative capacity. But while they look for new worlds to conquer we have to find the means to liquidate the victories they have already won. I have pointed out that to maintain our establishments on their existing scale will absorb much of the annual growth of our revenues for some years to come. Our other commitments are mainly in respect of works under construction and grants to local bodies. That they are somewhat formidable will be realized when I say that if on the 31st March 1928 we refused to accept any new schemes or further liabilities the balance of revenue commitments in respect of the former would amount to 141½ lakhs and of the latter to 64½ lakhs, that is to say, nearly four times the average amount we have been able to provide for such purposes from our revenues during the last three years.

Seasonal Conditions.

"9. Beforeturning from the Revenue section of our Budget I may be allowed a reference to the seasonal conditions which have affected our prospects and made it necessary to take a somewhat subdued view of our spending capacity. The Revenue head most directly affected is Land Revenue. In 1925–1926 the gross demand, excluding ayacut inclusion fees but including 57·18 lakhs, the opening balance, was approximately 821 lakhs, remissions amounted to 7·82 lakhs and actual collections, after deducting adjustments 5·59 lakhs and refunds 12–30 p.m.

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3·51 lakhs, amounted to $757\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs. For the current year the revised estimate is approximately 822 lakhs gross demand, adjustments 1·67 lakhs and refunds 7·48 lakhs, remissions 18·04 lakhs and net collections 740·05 lakhs. Apart from the increase in remissions the uncollected balance is expected to exceed that of the previous year by $8\frac{1}{3}$ lakhs. These adverse influences will affect 1927–1928 also, even assuming a return to ordinary conditions, for of a gross demand exceeding that of 1925–1926 by 10 lakhs actual collections are expected to be 3 lakhs less, and the uncollected balance to increase by another 9 lakhs to 64 lakhs against $46\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs in 1925–1926. Past experience shows that much of these uncollected balances become remissions and are permanently lost.

"10. It is a matter of great regret that an unfavourable season should have reduced our resources, temporarily affected the spending power of considerable sections of the community, and diminished employment. But I would deprecate an undue exaggeration or pessimism which is likely to have unfavourable psychological reactions, to encourage the withholding of supplies from markets and to justify and thereby to intensify on the part of dealers in grains and other essentials a natural tendency to timidity and caution which is apt to square with their conception of their own interests. After all, we are not inexperienced in unfavourable seasons or lacking in the machinery to deal with them. We have had a series of seasons which have been on the whole favourable and added to the general resources of the ryots and there is no reason to suppose that there will be any insufficiency of food supplies. Here to-day we are concerned with the part which the State can play in alleviating distress. And it is comforting to think that we are not compelled to reduce that programme of works which provides employment to the country. On the contrary under irrigation works, under minor irrigation works and civil works our budget for 1927–1928 provides for an additional expenditure of 41 lakhs. Our increased expenditure under capital works will also provide further employment for the labouring classes, and, as Honourable Members are aware, our Railway Companies have under execution a programme of construction and extension which will materially help in providing employment. From information kindly placed at my disposal by the Agents of the Madras and Southern Mahratta and South Indian Railways, I understand that there will be a total expenditure in 1927–1928 on lines in progress and new lines or other works to be constructed, exceeding 4 crores, and that direct payments to labour in the shape of wages will be at least one-third of that amount. The local of these undertakings is of course definitely determined and although they will attract certain classes of labour from elsewhere they cannot be shifted to other areas with

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reference to local conditions. Our policy in regard to areas where lack of employment declares itself is as far as possible to co-ordinate our measures for providing it with the programmes of local bodies, and by anticipating and expanding these programmes to obtain as much advantage or benefit from our expenditure as the conditions under which we work will permit. It may be that in some areas the limits to which this policy can be adopted will prove inadequate and that relief works on that larger and more concentrated scale which the Famine Code contemplates will be required. In that case we shall not hesitate to have recourse to them. As regards the resources at our disposal we have 30·57 lakhs in our Famine Insurance Fund, a further payment to the fund of 6·61 lakhs in 1927–1928, and we may hope that this will prove more than adequate to meet all requirements until a timely South-west monsoon enables local agricultural operations to be resumed. As our next line of reserve we shall have a revenue balance of 40·91 lakhs on which to draw. Should that in turn be exhausted we shall have to ask the various departments to adapt their programmes of new expenditure to the imperative need to provide employment on as large a scale as possible where it is most required. It is unnecessary to say more now. The measures indicated go much beyond anything we need at present contemplate as likely to be necessary.

CAPITAL AND DEBT HEADS.

"11. It is now necessary in order to complete this review of our financial position and programme for the coming year to deal with transactions under the capital and debt heads. As Honourable Members are aware since the 1st April 1925 these operations are financed from the Provincial Loans Fund, and cover two classes of loans, the borrowings of the Local Government on its own account, and its borrowings on behalf of others. These borrowings are again each divided into two categories, productive and unproductive, the rate of interest on the latter being $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent higher. Under the former category come productive irrigation works, capital expenditure on fully commercialized concerns, and loans by the Provincial Government to cultivators, to local bodies and port trusts and to co-operative societies. Loans taken by Government are usually repaid out of revenue in equated payments. These loans so far as they are on behalf of others are repaid similarly in equated payments by the borrowers. We thus have every year a varying amount of recoveries in respect of principal available for fresh loans and for capital expenditure and our net borrowings are equivalent to our gross requirements *minus* the anticipated repayments.

" 12. In 1925–1926 there was an opening balance of 16·17 lakhs and recoveries of advances amounted to 37·97 lakhs; an advance of 88·61 lakhs from the Fund raised our total resources to 142·75 lakhs, disbursements amounted to 101·80 lakhs on productive and 16·77 lakhs on unproductive purposes, and the total balance, the opening balance for the current year, was 24·18 lakhs. An expenditure of 8·44 lakhs on the Cauvery-Metur project signalized the inception of a scheme of the first magnitude which will greatly increase our borrowings in the next few years. At present by arrangement with the Government of India we only pay simple interest annually on our borrowings for this project, the repayment of capital as a long term loan will commence only when the project becomes a revenue producing asset.

" The Budget Estimate for the current year amounted to 243·72 lakhs, the opening balance and anticipated recoveries providing 54·63 lakhs of this amount. An advance of 201·76 lakhs from the Provincial Loans Fund distributed as follows, Cauvery-Metur project 1 crore, Pykara Hydro-electric Scheme 10 lakhs, other productive purposes 91·76 lakhs, raised our resources to 256·39 lakhs giving a small balance of about 12 lakhs for contingencies. The provision of 10 lakhs for the Pykara scheme was based on the anticipations of the Public Works Department that this further important scheme for the development of our resources would be sanctioned and commenced within the year. The revised estimate of total expenditure is only 198·58 lakhs or 45·14 lakhs less than the estimate. The examination of constructional and other problems in connexion with the Metur project has taken longer than was anticipated and expenditure will amount only to 54·27 lakhs, while no capital expenditure will be possible on the Pykara project which is still under investigation. Short expenditure under these two heads will therefore amount to 55·73 lakhs. We have, however, increased our loans to municipalities mainly for electric lighting schemes by 8·11 lakhs and an additional provision of 7·20 lakhs for the payment of the commuted value of pensions, an item now met from loans, together with minor variations under other items will bring the total expenditure to 198·58 lakhs as stated and leave a balance of 57·81 lakhs with which to open the account for 1927–1928. With the requirements of that year I now propose to deal. The estimated expenditure under the Metur project is 129·39 lakhs and under the Pykara scheme 6 lakhs. Other productive purposes including new schemes placed by the Finance Committee in Class II will require a total provision of 111·88 lakhs. 21·60 lakhs is provided for other irrigation works including one lakh towards the construction of the Kattalai bed regulator, 47·70 lakhs for advances to local authorities and

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26·21 lakhs for advances to cultivators. Under 'unproductive' loans amounting to 27·64 lakhs, the main item is 11·81 lakhs provided for civil works not charged to revenue. These works were initiated out of loan funds at a time of financial stringency. Strictly speaking, they ought to have been met from revenue; the financial result was the same; we borrowed at the same rate for capital expenditure as if the expenditure had been charged to revenue and gone to create a revenue deficit or to reduce revenue balances. Then we have 9·90 lakhs provided for the payment of commuted value of pensions, 4 lakhs for loans under the State-Aid to Industries Act and 1·54 lakhs for the acquisition of house-sites for the depressed classes. Our total requirements therefore amount to 274·91 lakhs and it is proposed to meet them thus: the opening balance 57·81 lakhs and anticipated recoveries 32·63 lakhs will provide 90·44 lakhs; we have asked the Provincial Loans Fund to advance us 160 lakhs, and propose to utilize for the balance 24·47 lakhs from our closing revenue balance of 65·38 lakhs, thus leaving a sum of 40·91 lakhs from which, after meeting any imperative expenditure during 1927–1928, the opening revenue balance of 1928–1929 will be found.

"13. With your permission, Sir, I propose now to set forth the extent of the commitments which underlie our Loans Budget. In doing so Hydro-electric projects must for the present be excluded. The estimates for the Pykara scheme are under examination and the manner in which it should be financed has yet to be determined. The estimates for schemes now under execution amount to 774·96 lakhs, and the balance of loans yet to be raised will on the 31st March 1927 be 624·16 lakhs. New schemes for 1927–1928 will add a fresh liability of 52·06 lakhs making a total of 676·22 lakhs of which 171·29 lakhs will be provided for in 1927–1928 by borrowings and from revenue balances. The net amount still to be raised will therefore be 504·93 lakhs exclusive of Hydro-electric schemes or other fresh commitments. The rate at which that sum will have to be borrowed depends mainly on the time which the construction of the Cauvery project will take. That everything possible should be done to expedite construction and to secure revenue under it is in the interests not only of the ryots concerned but of our future finances. Our Capital and Debt head transactions are not of course confined to schemes now under or approaching construction. We carry the past on our shoulders and the completion of a scheme does not conclude the financial liabilities to which it gave rise. Under the financial settlement we commenced the new era with a debt amounting to 985·12 lakhs. 875·26 lakhs represented old capital expenditure on irrigation works on which we pay a fixed interest charge of 29·69 lakhs. 109·86 lakhs the balance of old Provincial Loans and

12-45 p.m.

Advances is being liquidated by annual payments of 9·50 lakhs. By the 31st March 1928 we shall have borrowed an additional gross sum of 822·66 lakhs at varying rates of interest and repaid 195·22 lakhs, the amount outstanding being 1612·56 lakhs, made up as follows, capital expenditure on irrigation works and Hydro-electric schemes 1165·97 lakhs, loans and advances by the Provincial Government 366·64 lakhs, capital expenditure on commercial concerns 12·93 lakhs, and borrowings to finance revenue deficits and civil works chargeable to revenue 67·02 lakhs, this small sum representing our unproductive debt. The amount due to Government from local authorities and other borrowers will on the 31st March 1928 be 453·63 lakhs to set off against the net increase in our liabilities of 627·44 lakhs. The nature or the amount of our debt need not therefore cause us anxiety. With the exception of the small sum to which I have referred it relates to expenditure which is either now productive or will be productive or will be recouped from those to whom we in our turn have advanced loans. But the increase in our debt, however laudable the objects for which it is incurred, does cause us embarrassment in so far as it adds to our interest and reduction of debt charges which have to be met from revenues before corresponding returns begin to come in, and also in so far as we lend to others for longer terms than those within which we ourselves have to repay our borrowings for the purpose. In 1927–1928 our revenue expenditure under Interest and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt will amount to 103 lakhs against 81 lakhs in 1925–1926, that is to say, the amount available for other revenue expenditure is reduced by 22 lakhs.

Summary.

"14. Perhaps I may now be allowed to summarise the financial situation which I have endeavoured to explain in some detail. Against a revenue of 1654·80 lakhs we anticipate an expenditure of 1724·13 lakhs in 1927–1928. Expenditure on that scale is rendered possible only by the fact that we have accumulated revenue balances amounting to 134·71 lakhs. These balances once spent do not recur and represent in part unanticipated windfalls, in part expenditure in previous years less than that provided for in their budgets. We are also labouring under the disadvantages of an unfavourable season which will affect the revenues of the coming as well as of the current year. Even under normal circumstances these revenues increase but slowly and our existing commitments will for several years continue to absorb the major share of such additions to our resources. We have also large commitments under schemes of a non-recurring nature, while schemes of capital expenditure are for the present making

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increased demands on our revenues in connexion with the payment of interest and the repayment of capital. It might under these circumstances be urged that there is an element of recklessness in the budget now placed before the Council. I do not deny that all these considerations give food for thought. But in the first place we may reasonably hope that next monsoon will not follow the example set by its predecessor, our commitments are not so out of our control that we cannot adjust future expenditure to our existing resources should that, as we sincerely hope it will not, prove necessary, and I am so impressed by the immense amount of ground yet to be covered in all administrative directions that I am unwilling to give the signal for reduced speed until convinced that it is essential. And here it is well to remember that our potential resources are not exhausted, though when and to what extent they will be released rests ultimately in other hands than ours although it is a matter in which a heavy responsibility rests upon our representatives elsewhere. We still pay a contribution of 165 lakhs from our provincial revenues to the Central Government. With that sum at our disposal we would have sufficient resources to meet all reasonable or possible administrative developments for the next three years. It is the peculiar misfortune of our Presidency that in its Pilgrim's Progress towards possession of its own estate it has encountered and still encounters formidable obstacles and that at each stage fresh and fierce lions roar against it.

Conclusion.

"15. But so far as the Government of India are concerned the long fight is over. In the Budget which he produced in the Legislative Assembly yesterday the Hon'ble Sir Basil Blackett announced that if the Government of India's proposals for 1927–1928 are adopted they ensure a total recurring remission in respect of the provincial contributions of 3,50 lakhs and a non-recurring remission of 2,58 lakhs. The share of this Presidency is 116 lakhs recurring and 49 lakhs non-recurring, that is to say, our province will at last stand in full possession of its proper revenues. It would be rank ingratitude on my part if, knowing as I well do how colossal the task has been, I failed to pay a tribute to the sincerity and the determination with which Sir Basil Blackett has laboured to remove what he has termed 'a millstone round the neck both of the Central Government and of the Provincial Governments, poisoning their mutual relations and hampering their every action'. I do not ignore the lions still in the path, nor am I prone to count my chickens before they are hatched, but I fervently trust that his efforts will be crowned with success and that that success which will mean so much

to this Presidency will be secured not merely by the good-will of the Government of India, but by the active co-operation of our own representatives in the Central Legislature. I have already stated that given our own revenues we can contemplate a noteworthy and continuous development of our ameliorative programmes during at least three years, that too without any additional taxation. Such is the prospect opened before our eyes; it exceeds our most sanguine anticipations, and it is one which I venture to think this Council and the people of this Presidency will not readily forego.

"16. In conclusion it is once more my pleasant duty to record my grateful appreciation of the manner in which the Finance Secretary and his staff have discharged a task which becomes more strenuous and more complicated every year. To their capacity and zeal I am greatly indebted and feel sure that Honourable Members of the Legislative Council realize how much their labours facilitate our debates. My cordial thanks are also due to all Members of the House who during the past year have served on the Finance and Public Accounts Committees to which the department looks and not in vain for advice and support." (Cheers.)

VIII

DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT FOR 1926-27.

Grant XXIII.

*The hon. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"Mr. President, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that

> '*the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs.* 50,000 *under* '*Grant XXIII—Civil Veterinary Services—Transferred*' *for the purchase of sera and vaccines required for the inoculation of cattle against rinderpest during the year* 1926–27.'

"Sir, contrary to our expectations, rinderpest was rather very severe in the current year. We had also other outbreaks to face, and they are—I hope I am pronouncing the names correctly—hæmorrhagic septicæmia and black quarter. We had made in the course of the year a provision in the budget for about Rs. 1,13,800, but as a matter of fact up to the end of December we had to exceed by a good figure the provision already made and probably the consumption of sera during the year would be six lakhs of doses for treating rinderpest, half a lakh for hæmorrhagic septacæmia and 22,000 for the disease called black quarter. The cost of all this, including that for railway freight and other expenses, would come to about Rs. 1,67,800, which means an excess of Rs. 54,000 over and above the amount already provisionally provided for. We can find Rs. 4,000 as savings under other units in the grant already provided for. There then still remains a sum of Rs. 50,000 for which I have come before the House with a demand for a supplementary grant. Rupees 6,000 can be effected under Grant XXIV Co-operative Credit and Rs. 10,000 under Grant XXII Agriculture, and the balance will be found under Grant XXX Civil Works. I beg to move the demand."

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*Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Sir, I beg to move

'*that the allotment of Rs. 50,000 for Civil Veterinary Services—Transferred be reduced by Rs. 100.*'

"I wish to be enlightened on certain points in connexion with this extra grant. The note circulated to us is as short, as brief and as unenlightening as possible. The hon. the Minister has, I am afraid, forgotten that we are laymen and not experts in all these terminologies regarding these diseases as also about the financial provision made. After a great deal of trouble, I have found that this additional grant comes under touring establishment. At first our impression was that it came under hospitals and dispensaries, but now, after an amount of study which could have been saved if the hon. the Minister had given the particular sub-heading under which this item came—I think it would have saved about an hour's work which it has entailed on me in groping in the dark in attempting to find out what it is—we find that it comes under touring establishment. Now, assuming that it comes under touring establishments, I find that in the report for 1925-26 which the Government recently issued as also in the detailed report of the Veterinary Department which I have read somewhere else, a complaint has been made of the inadequacy of the establishment inasmuch as the authorities had to withdraw the establishment, which was meant for ordinary purposes such as inoculation and other things, to devote its time for extraordinary outbreaks.

"The result is that there has been, as has been pointed out, a decrease in the number of cases of contagious and non-contagious diseases treated by the itinerating officers. It was mainly due to the fact that they were engaged in extraordinary work consequent on a severe outbreak of rinderpest. That shows how inadequate the veterinary establishment is. I will not at present dwell on pay and other matters. This is a matter which has to be taken up next year. I do not know what steps Government have taken after they came to know of the continuous outbreak of the rinderpest epidemic to increase the necessary establishment which is essential for this purpose. For the next year, I find an increase of one veterinary assistant on a salary of Rs. 60—120. That shows that the Government is practically against providing the necessary establishments. It costs a lakh of rupees to supervise the work done and the treatment costs five lakhs. The money spent on the purchase of sera will be wasted. Either it will be used in a wrong manner or it will not be administered at all. Inoculation as such has been neglected. Government admits it. Inadequate establishment is admitted. Apart from that, I will mention another thing. We have got a number of sera. Nowadays we have got 'serum alone' and 'serum simultaneous'. I want to know what sort of serum will be specially selected. Various sera have been mentioned in the report itself. Government seems to be very chary in spending money on really efficacious sera. The effect of it is practically very little is done. There was an outbreak of rinderpest recently in the districts of Kurnool, Bellary, South Kanara, Ganjam, Kistna and Guntur. These places have been recently visited by the hon. Ministers. If they were really vigilant—perhaps they were busy receiving addresses—I want to know what really they have ascertained. I really doubt if any work has been done at all. In South Kanara, very little work can be done in the future without adequate establishment. There are five veterinary officers and they cannot attend to all the work.

1 p.m.

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When the officer arrives, there is not the necessary serum or it arrives too late. In that way there is very little done and the little that is done is either imperfect or useless. I hope, therefore, Government will look very carefully into the necessity of dealing with these outbreaks in South Kanara and other districts. Great havoc has been played by this epidemic and the slow and inadequate action of the Government is simply surprising to the people in the districts. I hope, further, the Government and the hon. Minister will give more enlightenment on the subject as to what really they are going to do and how they are going to spend the one and a half lakhs of rupees. Probably most of the money has already been spent. But I hope the operations will have also to be continued for meeting the situation. For preventing the outbreak there is another thing to be done. To a great extent the outbreak is due to the inadequacy of feeding. In South Kanara and other districts pasture is so little that cattle are starving and it is no wonder they are subject to rinderpest. Government have not attempted to eradicate the root cause. Starvation is a pre-disposing cause for spread of rinderpest. There is a belief that the Forest department and the other departments are responsible for cutting down the pasture grounds. I hope the hon. Minister will look into this question in consultation with the Revenue Department and the Forest Department. These two departments are responsible for a good deal of the trouble by the cutting down of the pasture grounds and the levying of the exorbitant rate of fees for grazing. These are points which Government should look into very carefully and they should do their utmost by providing adequate establishment, by looking very carefully to the more efficacious serum and also by adopting the preventive remedies against the spread of the disease."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"I do not want to be considered as one who is opposing this grant for such a useful purpose. At the same time I would like to urge certain points from the villagers' point of view on the attention of the hon. Minister. Government has recently stated its policy on itinerant veterinary dispensaries."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The practice of this House regarding supplementary demands hitherto has been not to refer to the policy of the Government or of the whole department. The hon. Member is requested to confine his remarks to the amendment moved by the hon. Member for South Kanara with regard to the adequacy of the establishment to carry on the serum operations, the efficacy of the various sera and remedies mentioned, omitted or neglected, etc."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"I have no idea of criticising the whole department. What I wanted to say was when the Government have abolished the itinerary dispensaries how large quantities of the serum can be utilized. As it is, I know that rinderpest is a very terrible disease, as deadly as cholera among human beings. The belief of the ryot is that cattle rarely survive an attack. But even the so-called ignorant ryot now understands the value of inoculation. The difficulty at present felt by him is that he never gets the relief when he wants it. The dispensaries are so far apart that if the hon. Minister will look into the number of cases treated in the dispensaries I do not think the average will be more than 3·5 or 4·5. If the hon. Minister will promise to bear this request in mind and see that the relief is taken to the villager and the poor cattle without merely expecting the cattle to come to the

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dispensaries which are far away, I do not think we need object to the grant. As regards North Arcot, in the taluk of Arkonam, where there was an outbreak of this disease recently, the ryots wanted the veterinary assistants. None was to be had. Once a man turned up. His services were appreciated. I know there is hardly much work done in most veterinary dispensaries. The number of cases treated daily is almost negligible, and even the few animals treated are often not the ryots' cattle but probably the pet animals of local officials. Recently I had to take to the notice of the hon. Minister himself the case of a veterinary assistant in a certain mufassal town—I need not mention it here—who is always engaged in communal politics and whose dispensary is a sort of public reading room for discussion or communal politics. Once again I would request the hon. Minister to see that in the case of such outbreaks whether there is a call or not, let the veterinary assistant go to the ryots with his remedies. I can quote other instances where the veterinary assistants go and sit in their houses and carry on political propaganda. The average number of cases that he treats is 3½ or 4½. The sum of Rs. 50,000 is not much for this House to vote. In the near future they are going to vote away several crores. I should not be taken as objecting to this. I only say that better arrangements ought to be made to make the remedies reach the home of the ryots."

*Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" Sir, I wish to confine my remarks only to the two methods of inoculation mentioned here. There is first the serum-alone method, which is the method that is mostly adopted in this province. We find from the cases inoculated in 1925–26 that 146,119 inoculations were made by the 'serum-alone' method and only 529 inoculations were made by the 'serum-simultaneous' method. Now, it is generally admitted by all veterinary surgeons that this serum-alone method is practically useless, as it confers immunity only for about a week. As the immunity conferred by the serum-alone method is only for so short a period, it becomes necessary to reinoculate the cattle in the places stricken with rinderpest, and we generally find that ryots are unwilling to submit their cattle to reinoculation and even in cases where they get them reinoculated, it so happens the rinderpest continues for a long period, say at least for one or two months, in an area which is affected and then the cattle that are inoculated, or even reinoculated, do fall a prey to the contagion which they get from the neighbouring villages if not from the same village. This has been found out by experience in Mysore also where they have given up now this serum-alone method and taken to the serum-simultaneous method because the latter confers immunity for a longer period. So I would submit, Sir, that the hon. the Minister should look into this matter and consider whether in view of the fact that the serum-alone method confers immunity for only a very short period we should not popularise the other method, the serum-simultaneous method, and bring it into more widespread use. Otherwise, it will be merely a waste of public money, as we are spending as much as Rs. 139 thousand and odd on this serum-alone method of injection. And if it does not afford immunity and does not protect our cattle sufficiently, it is up to the hon. the Minister to see that the other method which is admittedly more effective and which confers immunity for a much longer period is brought into operation."

1-15 p.m.

*The Zamindar of Gollapalli :—" Mr. President, Sir, rinderpest is a contagious disease caused by germs entering the system of cattle through the media of food, water and air. This fell contagion causes much havoc to the

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poor ryot who solely depends on the wealth of his cattle for agricultural and dairy purposes. I am aware, Sir, of some poor ryots who were deprived of all their cattle by this cruel contagion. Sir, consider an unfortunate poor tenant whose cattle is visited by this cruel disease at a time of harvest or sowing. External help would be refused for fear of contagion. He would not be able to carry on his work with his remnant of cattle. He cannot get even hired cattle in rural areas. So he would perforce have to leave his fields uncultivated for the year and starve with his prolific family.

" Mr. President, placing this picture before you, I proceed to consider how far the Veterinary department is helping to put out this and such like cattle pests in rural areas. First of all, let me say, Sir, that there are very few rural dispensaries placed within reach of innocent and superstitious rural population and they are all situated in some urban locality which is beyond their reach. I regret to note that there is no proper propaganda, both experimental and theoretical, in rural areas. The department as it stands is only helping the few educated urban localities of the Presidency. The anti-germicide serum is lastly used in rural places. If a man from a village seeks the help of a veterinary physician he would come there after a day or two at his leisure in his motor-bicycle and would then examine the cattle. He would not care to diagnose the disease properly. He would think himself a demigod and would shower peremptory orders on the inhabitants of the locality without giving reason. He would not try to persuade and make them believe in the germ infection. The villager would then go his own way after the physician had got on his bicycle. He would not care to observe the precautions and instructions given by the physician because he would not be able to understand and believe them. The fell disease would do its work of destruction.

"Mr. President, Sir, my sincere opinion is that this department is not shouldering its full responsibility. Let us now consider how the department can benefit the Presidency. There should be more dispensaries in the rural areas, and a careful selection of physicians who will freely mingle with the people and think of the welfare of the land. The assistants should get the anti-rinderpest serum and other sera fresh from the laboratory and use them then and there. Thus you would lessen the pest and would create confidence in the minds of rural people. When they come to believe this treatment, every few villages can be made to maintain one physician of their own, because India is dependent entirely on cattle for agriculture which is the main industry of the country from time immemorial to time infinity.

" As for preventive measures for the disease, the villagers are not carrying out the instructions of the physician in regard to the contact of food, drink and air. So, Sir, the hospitals must be placed outside villages in the porambokes to which place no cattle resort. The cattle that is attacked by the fell disease should be sent to the hospital for treatment and the owner can tend his cattle in the hospital itself under the direct supervision of the physician. He shall be made to clean the cattle shed in his home on hygienic principles in times of contagion before using it for other cattle. If any cattle dies out of contagion before leaving the shed, its carcase shall not be left alone but shall be buried in the presence of the headman of the village.

" Sir, you may ask me why these executive compulsions are necessary. The rural population are not believers in the theory of germ infection but

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would go on with their *Jatras* and sacrifices and lose further. So, to make them believe, the department must work successfully among them. Its success in checking the contagion depends mostly on the preventive methods. So, Sir, these two are *inter alia*. Therefore, if executive enforcement is brought as a medium between the two, the department would be successful and be useful to the Presidency.

"With these few suggestions for the working of the department, I support the grant."

* The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I am much obliged to the very helpful and informing criticism that has been given expression to from more than one quarter in this House. My hon. Friend Mr. Saldanha was not really complaining about the grant that I have moved. But his complaint rather is that I have not asked for more. He says there is so much more work to be done, more establishment to be provided for, that what I have asked does not really go far. That is a fact, I admit. But what I have to-day been asking for is not for more dispensaries, or more hospitals or for more touring assistants but for more serum to meet the situation that has arisen in the course of the year. About that, Sir, my hon. Friend, I think, has really no objection to advance. If any dispensaries have been closed to release the assistant in charge to look to the outbreak of rinderpest, I am willing to look into that matter if it is brought to my notice. But so far as Mangalore is concerned, I venture to think that the assistant in charge of that dispensary has never been deputed outside Mangalore for work of this sort. There may be a touring assistant attached to that dispensary, who I think rightly is asked to attend to such outbreaks, because as a matter of fact I do not think he has enough work to do in addition to the assistant already in charge of the dispensary."

*Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I referred only to a fact contained in the official report for 1925-26. There it is said that the touring assistants who were attending to the work of inoculation had to be taken away to attend to outbreaks of contagious diseases."

* The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I carefully listened to my hon. Friend and I thought I heard him also specifically refer to the dispensary at Mangalore. If he did not do so, I have nothing further to say in the matter.

" My hon. Friend Mr. Adinarayana Chettiyar then made a complaint that in the dispensaries there may not be enough work for each assistant in charge to do. He said that the average attendance is 3-5 per day. If there are any such cases, I should be obliged if information is given to me about them. Then, I shall certainly enquire why it is there are not more cases coming to that hospital. Is it because that the cattle are so healthy that there is no sickness among them at all, or is it for any other cause? But, so far as my inspection has gone on till now, I have not come across a dispensary where the attendance has been so poor as that described by my hon. Friend. He also mentioned that in North Arcot when there was an outbreak of the disease there was no help forthcoming. I do not know when it was. But if such cases occur and they are brought to the notice of the Government, I have not the slightest doubt that the Veterinary Adviser to the Government will certainly see that relief is afforded as early as possible.

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"My hon. Friend, Sir, again said that there has been only an increase of one veterinary assistant in the coming year as compared with the current year. I venture to think that if he would go into the budget once again carefully he would find that there are as many as twelve additional assistants, if not more. I am not myself satisfied with this twelve, and I do hope it will be possible to have a larger number of assistants not only touring in the country but also in charge of the dispensaries, at least at the rate of one for each taluk.

"I agree with the Zamindar of Gollapalli that the department should be made to do the maximum amount of work it can, and I shall certainly be glad to have any suggestions that may be advanced from whatever side for developing the department. So far, I have not heard any reasons really to reduce the grant by Rs. 100 on the ground that the serum asked for is not needed or cannot be utilized. In fact, we have use for all the serum that I have asked for, and I do hope that the grant will be passed. I am sure my hon. Friend Mr. Saldanha has not said the last word about serum, and I know there are many opportunities and occasions on which this question may come up; when motions are discussed during the course of the next fortnight, I am sure, Sir, there will be fresh opportunities to draw pointed attention to these matters, and then it may be possible to discuss the other items which are not relevant to the matter under discussion to-day. I hope, Sir, the hon. Member will withdraw his amendment."

1-30 p.m. * Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"As to the points explained by the hon. the Minister for Agriculture, I should seriously question the policy of the Government in going in for these inoculations during periods of epidemic only. If it is admitted by the Agricultural department that the so-called serum simultaneous method is going to confer immunity on the cattle then why should they wait for the epidemic to break out and then only treat the sick animal? I should like to know from the hon. the Minister why Government should not start immunising the animals beforehand. From the statistics in their possession, they must be in a position to know when these epidemics are breaking out. From my observations I find that this epidemic of rinderpest occurs in regular cyclic periods of once in five years. It lasts for two years and then disappears. The immunity conferred by inoculation lasts for five years. After five years they are again attacked. Then only the Government step in and they begin treating the rich man's animal. That is my experience in Madras. They have treated about 900 bulls belonging to the Corporation of Madras. They started first with the serum method. It was found that the immunity was for nine days and they went on inoculating each bull once every nine days. When the animal was under treatment it was on the sick list. Can the poor man, I ask, afford to put his animal on the sick list for a long time when in fact he depends on it to feed him? With the six lakhs of doses for which the hon. Minister is asking for a grant, I should like to know from him how many animals are going to be treated. The total mortality last year was 45,000 and giving each bull 20 doses, 9 lakhs of doses would have been necessary to save the lives of these 45,000 animals that were carried away during the last epidemic of rinderpest. So that the serum method by itself is costly and the immunity conferred is questionable. You can only ward off the disease. In fact, among the shepherds in Madras, it has got into disfavour. They say that the serum brings on the disease in the animals and it kills them. If you

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want to do real scientific work you must go in for preventives when there is no rinderpest and inoculate them by the serum simultaneous method. Only one inoculation is necessary and the immunity conferred by it is five or six years. It is a simple operation and the animal need not be on the sick list for a long time. I think they have succeeded with the serum simultaneous method in South Africa. But in Madras, the inoculation method by serum or serum simultaneous method is not regular and is not carried on in such a way as to create confidence in the minds of the cattle-owners. Several accidents have happened in Madras and so the whole system is run down, particularly, by the ignorant people who own these cattle, and so when there are cases of rinderpest they are not reported. So I would request the hon. the Minister to devise ways and means to make the method popular and also to adopt the most up-to-date method instead of going in for the old, costly and wasteful method."

The motion for reduction was put and negatived.

The demand was then put and carried and the grant was made.

The House adjourned for lunch at 1-35 p.m.

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.).

IX

RESOLUTION REGARDING APPROPRIATION FOR MAJOR WORKS.

* The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" Mr. President, I beg to move the following resolution :—

'*That in the case of any major work under the heads 15. Irrigation, 55. Irrigation, 41. Civil Works and 60. Civil Works, which is incomplete on the* 1st *April and for which there is no provision in the ensuing year's budget, this Council authorizes the continuation of the work up to the limit of the previous year's sanctioned appropriation, on condition that the previous year's total grant for the head concerned has not been exceeded by the expenditure on the work up to that limit and that a supplementary demand for the amount to be expended in the current year is placed before the Council at its first meeting after the* 1st *of April.*'

"I may say, Sir, that the object of this resolution is twofold. In the first place, during every financial year provision is made for a certain number of major works which it is expected will be completed within the financial year. Any small accidents towards the close of the financial year may prevent such anticipation from being realized under conditions which may make it too late to ask for provision in the following year. For example, sudden rains or the non-delivery of necessary material may cause unexpected delay and even where the work itself is actually completed, contractors may fail to draw bills which have been passed before the financial year has actually expired. The completion of the work or the payment for such bills has therefore either to be held up—in the latter case this is not permissible—until necessary funds have been provided by the Legislative Council or else payment has to be made in the absence of such provision. In the second place, there is a natural tendency on the part of disbursing officers to hasten payment in order to prevent financial provision from lapsing. This is part of what is generally known as the rush of expenditure in March, and leads to irregularities which have been animadverted upon by the Audit Department and not

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infrequently have to be brought to the notice of the Public Accounts Committee. Now, the Public Accounts Committee which reviewed the Audit Report for 1923–1924 in its report dealt with this very difficulty and recommended that the practice adopted in two other provinces to which our attention had been drawn by the Auditor-General, should be examined with a view to seeing whether either of these practices or any other should be adopted in order to meet our difficulty here. In one province, the lapses reported at the time of the revised estimate are made good in the next year's budget provided there is no excess over the Major head and that their accounts bear out the estimates. This of course ensures that if lapses are reported in time they will be restored to be spent at leisure in the course of the following year. That, however, does not meet the case of unanticipated delays or payments such as that I have referred to. And after full consideration it was decided that we should bring before the Legislative Council the motion which I now desire to move. It will, in the opinion of the Government, fully meet the necessities of the case and all that is asked for is that the Legislative Council should assent in this way to our procedure by which works in such cases will be carried on continuously up to the limit of the grant which the Council has already fixed. It does not permit of expenditure beyond the previous year's sanctioned appropriation nor does it permit the total grant under each head concerned of the previous year being exceeded. And it ensures that the expenditure actually incurred in the following year shall be regularized at the first possible opportunity by a supplementary demand being placed before the Council at its first meeting after the conclusion of the budget session. With this brief explanation I beg to move the resolution which stands in my name."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I second it."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Sir, it seems to me a very important constitutional point involving a change in the financial arrangements of the province of a radical nature. The hon. the Finance Member has explained the reason why this change was considered necessary, viz., that it is usual that during the months of February and March there used to be a rush of bills for payments lest the amounts sanctioned should lapse and that the department is not in a position to know how much of the sanctioned amount was spent during the year and how much would be required for the next year. There is, however, no resolution so bad as not to contain some element of good. In that way perhaps this small convenience may be cited as an argument. But when we consider the risks involved in accepting this change it seems to me that the balance of advantages is on the side of refusing sanction for a motion of this sort.

" Sir, in the first place, I do not think it is allowed under the rules provided for under the Government of India Act. Supplementary demands can be made only when the amounts budgeted for are found to be insufficient or when a new item of service is intended to be taken up. Here it is not a case where the amount provided for was found to be insufficient ; because, no provision will be made in the budget. Nor is it a case of a new item. Therefore, supplementary demands contemplated to be moved by the hon. the Finance Member at the first meeting in April cannot be in the sense in which the term supplementary demand is understood. Therefore in reality it is not a supplementary demand. Neither can it be an excess grant. Therefore, to legalise an apparently illegal motion for a supplementary demand

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after 1st April this resolution is placed before the Legislative Council asking the Council to give *carte blanche* to the Finance Member for spending amounts on all works which are found to be incomplete in the previous year. It seems to me that two or three causes must have weighed with the hon. the Finance Member when he pressed the passing of this resolution, viz., that when the budget is prepared for a particular year and presented to the Legislative Council, the surplus over the obligatory expenditure or the expenditure which is required for carrying on the administration on account of previous commitments will be larger than necessary if the provision for incomplete works also were to be included in that year's budget. To cover up that surplus new schemes will, either at the instance of the Ministers or of his own Colleagues in the Executive Council, necessarily be included in the budget. The Legislative Council will be under the impression that these new schemes for which provision has been made will be taken up during the year for which the provision has been budgeted. But between these two dates—the sanctioning of the budget by the Legislative Council and the taking up of the new schemes and, expenditure upon incomplete works for which sanction will be asked for after 1st April—supplementary demands will have to be made. They can only be appropriated either from unforeseen revenues, or from savings in departments or from keeping in abeyance new schemes for which provision has been made. It will not be known to the Legislative Council whether the Finance Member will appropriate moneys intended for new schemes or will find savings from other departments for which there has been over-budgeting having in view the remission of provincial contributions.

"If I understood him correctly it does not appear that this provision would apply to the allotment made in the immediately previous year only. It is just possible that a work might have been begun a few years ago and money may be allotted for that. The work might not have been completed in a particular year and might not be resumed in the next. Now he says, 'since you gave the sanction for the whole amount, in whatever year we may be spending the amount we need not ask you for the sanction'. Between the date of the original sanction of a particular project and its completion, some years might elapse without any provision being made and without any money being spent upon it. 2-45 p.m.

"Supplemental demands are occasions for the Legislative Council to express its opinion upon the various projects coming before it. This resolution will cut away that right of financial control which this House possesses over the administrative departments. It is not therefore possible for the Council to accept this resolution. If however it is considered necessary in the interests of the local bodies—I do not know whether it is intended to cover the cases of grants to local bodies . . ."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir:—"It refers to expenditure on Government works."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"My position is all the stronger then. I thought that this resolution would help the local bodies that are unable to spend the allotment within the year.

"I do not think that this resolution should be accepted because it will deprive the Legislative Council of the power of control it possesses over the spending departments. The hon. the Finance Member cited two instances of other provinces which have effected this change. I am not aware under what

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circumstances they did so. If the hon. the Finance Member had given notice of this a few days ago, we would have examined under what circumstances the change was effected in those Provinces. I therefore oppose the motion."

* Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Sir, I wish to associate myself with the main arguments of the hon. Member for the city of Madras and oppose the motion. If this resolution is carried, there will be a tendency on the part of the Department of Public Works for over-estimating the expenditure. If a particular project is estimated now to cost a lakh, naturally the department will not exceed that amount knowing full well that the department will not be able to spend the whole amount before the end of the financial year. If this resolution is carried, there will be a tendency to overestimate, because the officers of the department know very well that even if they are not able to spend the amount within the year they will be able to carry over the amount to the next year and spend it leisurely. This would give an impetus for over-estimating.

" I foresee also another evil. At present, if the officers of the department are slack in their work in the beginning of the year, they are becoming active as the year draws to a close, because they think that otherwise they would not be able to spend the allotment before the year runs out. But this resolution will make them slack in their work all through the year, because they know they would be able to spend the balance in the next year. For these two reasons I think that this motion of my hon. Friend should not be accepted by the House."

* Mr. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar :—" Sir, I feel constrained to oppose the motion. I agree that there may be some advantages if we accept this resolution. But as the financial rules at present stand, it is absolutely impossible for us to accept the resolution. I really do not know what the effect of accepting this resolution will be ; in fact nobody knows it. Under the Devolution Rules and the Financial Rules of this Province, we are not in a position to accept this motion. It will be useful if I just refer to the English Practice on which these rules are framed by the Government of India. The Parliament meets in the month of March every year to discuss and vote on the budget. The financial obligations of the British Government are so large that they are not able to dispose of the financial business in a short time. Therefore one of the first Acts they pass in the March sittings is the Consolidated Funds Act providing for the deficits of the current year and a lump sum for meeting the expenditure of the first few days of the next year without showing any details of appropriation, before the Appropriation Act is passed by it in course of time. The Act of 1926 says that it votes for 260 million pounds. No details are given. The Act of 1927 votes for 179,704 thousand pounds for the next year. The British Parliament does not allow money to be spent without an authorization from it. The Devolution Rules also contemplate that no money should be spent by the Government without the sanction of the Legislative Council in matters for which the sanction of the Legislative Council is necessary. Of course, under section 72-D of the Government of India Act, the Governor can authorize expenditure in cases of emergency without the sanction of the Legislature. But Irrigation works and Civil works contemplated in grants 15, 55, 41 and 60 cannot come under this head. These are things contemplated in the previous year. They have been provided for and owing to some difficulty which the hon. the Finance Member explained, the department has not been

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able to spend the whole amount. Therefore the Governor cannot authorize expenditure under section 72-D of the Act. The Devolution Rules fix the limits within which we have to work. Under the rules, certain powers are given to the Finance Department and the Administrative Department to reappropriate sums voted within the grants themselves without the sanction of the Legislative Council. The Devolution Rules give greater liberty to this Government than the English Ministry has. But the British Parliament is very anxious that there should be no expenditure without an Act of Parliament authorising it. It makes an exception in the case of the Army and the Navy. The expenditure on those two items cannot wait for the Parliamentary procedure to be completed finally. A certain amount is therefore allotted to them for the whole year and it is open to the Army and Navy authorities to divert the amount from one head to another head in their own budget, provided the total expenditure does not exceed the amount allotted for the Army and Navy in that particular year. They may also spend the amount in the next year awaiting the sanction of the Parliament to be given in the Appropriation Act of the next year. I may usefully quote those provisions here which show that the exigencies of the Army and Navy have to wait for legislative sanction which is given in the Appropriation Act of the previous year itself. Section 4 of the Appropriation Act of 1925 says :

'4. (1) So long as the aggregate expenditure on naval and air services respectively is not made to exceed the aggregate sums appropriated by this Act for those services respectively, any surplus arising on any vote for those services, either by an excess of the sum realized on account of appropriations in aid of the vote over the sum which may be applied under this Act as appropriations in aid of that vote, or by saving of expenditure on that vote, may, with the sanction of the Treasury, be temporarily applied either in making up any deficiency in the sums realized on account of appropriations in aid of any other vote in the same department or in defraying expenditure in the same department which is not provided for in the sums appropriated to the service of the department by this Act, and which it may be detrimental to the public service to postpone until provision can be made for it by Parliament in the usual course.' Page 1367 of Public General Acts, 1924-25.

" Some latitude is allowed for the army and navy department to incur expenditure in the next year within the amount voted by Parliament in the previous year. But even this is regularized by the Appropriation Act of the subsequent year.

In this case the Appropriation Act of 1926 says : Whereas under the powers given for the purpose by the Appropriation Act of 1924, surpluses arising on certain vôtes for the navy and air services respectively have been applied as shown in the account set out in Schedule (C) to this Act; it is enacted that the application of those surpluses as shown in the said account is hereby sanctioned."

" In this way the expenditure is legalized.

" So no money of the exchequer can be spent on any purpose, however urgent it may be, however necessary it may be, without the express sanction of the legislature. Following this fundamental principle, Devolution Rules have been framed. As I have already said, greater latitude is given to the Finance Department and the Government of Madras in administering their funds. Let us for a moment consider whether the Government want, by this resolution, to exceed the liberty given to them. Under Devolution Rule 38, expenditure can be diverted from one major head to another major head by the Finance Department and from one minor head to another minor head by a Minister. But it does not certainly provide for the transfer of any amount from one grant to another grant. That is exactly what the hon. the Finance Member wants by this resolution. For example, I take the Mettur project

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for which a sum of Rs. 130 lakhs has been sanctioned for expenditure during this year. Supposing that owing to some exigencies such as abnormal season of the year or the fact that the machinery does not arrive, the Government are not able to spend during the year more than Rs. 10 lakhs, what the hon. the Finance Member says by the resolution is that the sum of Rs. 120 lakhs should be spent during the next year without any sanction from the Legislative Council."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" On a point of personal explanation, Sir. The hon. Member is entirely mistaken. No such case can possibly arise. A sum of Rs. 100 lakhs was provided this year for the Mettur project, and we shall have spent Rs. 54 lakhs. A sum of 44 lakhs of rupees has not been spent by the Public Works Department. There is provision for next year. Certainly we cannot proceed with any work for which there is no provision in the budget."

* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" The hon. the Finance Member may be right in his intentions. But the effect of the resolution is quite different. What I said to the House is covered by the resolution. Suppose that in the present year an allotment of Rs. 130 lakhs is provided for the Mettur project and we spend Rs. 10 lakhs during the year. Suppose also that there is no provision for this project in the next year's budget, because the Government have to provide for more pressing schemes."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" May I explain again ? The provision under any head for the current year lapses at the end of the year. There must be further provision in the next year's budget to complete a scheme. We cannot possibly spend as the hon. Member suggests. Only the amount that is provided in the budget for the year can be spent. We cannot possibly spend without sanction under our procedure any sum beyond the definite provision in the budget."

* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" I repeat what the hon. the Finance Member said. Whatever is voted in a year lapses at the end of the year, and any sum which is not spent in that year cannot be available for expenditure during the next year.

" What the hon. the Finance Member says by this resolution is this : Suppose a sum of Rs. 100 lakhs has been granted by the Legislative Council for a particular purpose, 80 lakhs are spent and 20 lakhs remain unspent. The hon. Member says that he would spend the sum of Rs. 20 lakhs in the next year and come forward after spending the amount for a supplementary grant for that amount. I thought the hon. the Finance Member lost sight of the provision regarding lapses, in the Civil Account Code in framing this resolution. Clause 206 of the Civil Account Code says :

> ' Deposits not exceeding one rupee unclaimed for one whole account year, balances not exceeding one rupee of deposits particularly repaid during the year then closing and all balances unclaimed for more than three account years will, at the close of March each year, be credited to Government by means of transfer entries in the Accountant-General's office.'

" Even though there is a provision to this effect, the hon. the Finance Member says by his resolution that he will go on spending the amount remaining unspent at the end of the year without the sanction of the Legislative Council and come forward with a supplementary demand later on.

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"It is a different matter whether the latter part of this resolution will come under the category of a supplementary demand or not. What the hon. the Finance Member says is this: 'though there is no sanction of the Legislative Council for spending the unspent sum of Rs. 20 lakhs during the current year on the particular item, I am entitled to spend it if this resolution is passed. I will spend it and come to you with a supplementary grant in August or September 1927 when we meet.' I shall refer to the difficulty which the hon. the Finance Member expressed later on.

"The money that is voted by a Council and is unspent lapses at the end of the financial year and on the 1st of April of the succeeding year there is nothing left. What the hon. Member attempts to do by this resolution is this: He says: 'I will go on spending up to a particular limit, i.e., what is left of the last year's provision, and come with a supplementary grant in September or October when the Legislative Council meeting is held.' I shall just put a case where difficulties may arise when a supplementary demand is moved. Take, for instance, a case in which a sum of Rs. 100 lakhs is provided for the current year, Rs. 10 lakhs are spent and the remaining 90 lakhs remain unspent. The hon. Member says that he would spend Rs. 90 lakhs next year and come up afterwards with a supplementary grant for this amount. Suppose the Council refuses to grant the amount. The money has been spent. Who is to pay it? Is it the situation which the hon. Member is anxious to place the House in? Certainly it should not be done. During the course of the year the money is spent, we may find that the scheme is useless or unprofitable. The House as a whole may decide to reject the scheme even after spending some money over it. We are liable to make mistakes and we may grow wiser later on; we may content ourselves, after wasting 10 lakhs of rupees, by not spending 90 lakhs more on it. It should not be open to the hon. Member to say that the Council should grant the sum of Rs. 90 lakhs, because it had been spent.

"What is the latter part of the resolution? It says that the Government would come forward with a supplementary grant for the money they have already spent. What is a supplementary grant? I shall refer to Rule 32 of the Legislative Council Rules which deals with supplementary grants. I do not know whether such an item of expenditure can be brought under the definition of a supplementary grant. Rule 32, page 204, Vol. I, of the Legislative Council Manual says:

'An estimate shall be presented to the Council for a supplementary or additional grant when—

(i) the amount voted in the Budget of a grant is found to be insufficient for the purposes of the current year, or

(ii) a need arises during the current year for expenditure for which the vote of the Council is necessary upon some new service not contemplated in the budget for that year.

(2) An estimate may be presented to the Council for an additional or supplementary grant in respect of any demand to which the Council has previously refused its assent or the amount of which the Council has reduced either by a reduction of the whole grant or by the omission or reduction of any of the items of expenditure of which the grant is composed.

(3) Supplementary or additional estimates shall be dealt with in the same way by the Council as if they were demands for grants.'

"These are the three classes of cases in which the vote of the Council can be asked. I do not know under what clause of this rule the hon. Member will bring forward a supplementary demand. This is not a service for which there would be provision in the budget. For instance, take a scheme for which provision is not made in the next year's budget. What he says is that he

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will spend the balance of the amount of money that is not spent during the current year and then come forward with a supplementary demand. Such a demand cannot come under any of the cases mentioned in Rule 32, because there is no provision in the budget for that scheme and because it is not a new service unless the hon. the Finance Member by some stretch of imagination says that this is a new service not thought of and not contemplated in the budget. Sir, if you will excuse me the analogy, it is just like saying that an 'old gentleman' means a 'young lady'. What is necessary under sub-clause (ii) is that at the time of the budget the Government had no idea of the work at all. What the hon. the Finance Member contemplates under the resolution is certainly not a grant of that sort. There is provision in the current year and the work cannot be completed within the year. He cannot bring a supplementary demand under sub-clause (ii). Certainly the work cannot be considered by any stretch of imagination as a new service. A supplementary demand cannot be moved under clause (2) of that rule, because there is no provision in the budget which has been refused or reduced. I have attempted to show that under the rules as they are, money cannot be spent on such a work without a vote of the legislature and that no supplementary demand can be moved. Now, the hon. Member wants to incur expenditure without a vote of the legislature and to spend money on a matter for which the vote of the legislature cannot be asked. He says 'I want this Council to give me power to spend the money that could not be spent at the end of the financial year.' What is the effect of the resolution if it is passed? It is only a recommendation to the Government. I need not repeat that the resolution is not in consonance with the regulations. Who is the officer who passes the accounts? Suppose the Accountant-General says that the Council passed a pious resolution. The Accountant-General and the Finance authorities have a right to say that the Legislative Council has no power to pass such a resolution. What are we to do then?

3-15 p.m. "But we are bound by the regulations which have been laid down for the conduct of the Madras Government. We cannot draft money or appropriate money for any purpose which is not sanctioned either in the Rules or in the Act. If the hon. the Finance Member wants to say that this is sanctioned by the Rules, this procedure of appropriating money with the vote of the House, certainly this resolution, is superfluous. The hon. Member admittedly feels that he has not the power himself without the vote of this Council; and I am now asking whether the vote of this Council in favour of the resolution does give him that authority. I therefore submit, Sir, that we have no power to pass this resolution and admitting that we can discuss and pass it, I say it is absolutely useless.

"Sir, I have till now tried to show to this House that the resolution cannot be discussed by this House and that even if the vote is taken on it, it will be useless. I will now deal with certain practical questions which I shall put to the hon. the Finance Member, assuming that he has the power to bring forward this resolution. Not only will it not be valid but it is also dangerous to pass this resolution as I have shown. The budget of the Government is presented to us in the beginning of March and it is passed before the end of March and we adjourn. We may probably meet next in July, August or September. Certainly I do not see any difficulty, if the Government are really anxious to spend money on a certain work, in calling a meeting of the Council in April or May. But what does the hon. Member now say in this resolution?

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'At its first meeting after the 1st of April.' The next meeting after the 1st of April may be in October or in December. If the Government are really anxious to carry on any particular work for which there is some urgency, why not they convene a meeting of this Council on the 15th or 20th of April and have a supplementary demand passed? They can certainly do it. Now, the budget is presented on the 1st of March and the general discussion goes on for three days and the voting of demand begins on the 15th of March. Instead of that, I suggest that the budget may be presented on the 15th of March and the voting of demands finished by the 15th or 16th and that a supplementary demand be brought on the 16th or 17th April. The Government will then be in a position to know what amounts they want for other services and they can come with supplementary demands. Even supposing the Government are not able to arrive at the exact amounts in respect of the several services, what is there to prevent them from convening the meeting in May or June or as soon as the necessity to incur the expenditure is felt? Certainly the mere convenience or inconvenience of the Government in calling for the meeting of the Council on a particular day cannot afford any justification for the House voting in any way on the resolution before it. For, Sir, the ground seems to be simply this, that the Government find it inconvenient to call for a meeting of the Council in April or in May and that therefore they want the extraordinary sanction of the House to spend moneys which they could not spend otherwise. We are not made aware of the practical difficulties in the way of the Government calling for a meeting of the Council in April or in the beginning or even at the end of May. If that is done, this extraordinary course which the hon. the Finance Member now wants us to take need not be resorted to and it is perfectly possible without any inconvenience or stoppage of the work to have the necessary funds. On these grounds, I oppose this resolution."

* Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu :—"Sir, I feel bound to oppose this motion for the reason that this Council would be deprived of the opportunity of discussing on the merits of any particular work for which the money is needed. Sir, the demand for grant for Public Works is allotted a certain time within which it is impossible for us to go through every item of it and take objection to it. We are not able to discuss in practice but a few items comprised in this demand and immediately the time limit is reached, the whole demand is put and the items are taken for as sanctioned. Supposing one of the works on which the Council has not expressed its opinion is found to be incomplete for want of funds and a motion like the one before us is brought in respect of it, the Council would be deprived of discussing it if the motion were accepted. If, on the other hand, a supplementary demand is brought in regard to that particular item, the Council will have the opportunity of expressing its opinion on it. I think that sanction of this procedure would mean that in respect of all items of work which were taken as sanctioned at the time of the voting of demands for want of time, the Council would be deprived of any opportunity on a later occasion of discussing as to the desirability or undesirability of sanctioning the expenditure on the particular work.

"My next point is this. It is not very clear as to what is exactly meant by this resolution. Sir, the hon. the Finance Member interrupted once or twice my hon. Friend, Mr. Muttayya Mudaliyar, and said that if a work estimated for Rs. 80 lakhs were sanctioned and if only Rs. 20 lakhs were spent out of the sanctioned amount, the remaining 60 lakhs could be spent in the

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next year, that there would be some objection to it. What exactly the objection was, I am not able to see. There is this thing to be noted. The resolution itself refers to a major work being a head of account. Supposing under Public Works as a head, there are a number of works sanctioned and after the whole allotment is spent in respect of one work it is found incomplete, will it be open to the Government to sanction expenditure on that work from out of the savings on other works under that head? It looks like this that the total amount that they would spend on an incomplete work should not exceed the total demand under that head. That means the Government may spend also in excess of the sanctioned allotment but only up to the savings that may be had under that head in respect of other works. That will be really dangerous because not only do they spend what is allotted, but also what is saved, in the next year.

"The third objection is this. When budgets are called and estimates are prepared by the departments, they are asked to give a forecast of the expenditure up to 31st March. If this resolution or the procedure involved in it is allowed, what will happen is this: the departments may as well give a forecast of the expenditure not up to the 31st of March but till the next meeting—it may be in June or July or August—and go on spending till His Excellency calls for the next meeting of the Council. I therefore think that we will be practically giving a sort of inducement to the departmental officers not to be overstrict in regard to the money they want for the financial year."

* Mr. S. Satyamurti :—"Mr. President, Sir, I am sure the hon. the Finance Member has listened to the speeches which have been made on this side of the House and if he has not made up his mind already not to be convinced, he would see the wisdom of withdrawing this resolution. Either the resolution means nothing or it means too much. Either it is a pious expression of the wish of this House or it means that certain spending departments may go and spend what they like, provided they come within the four corners of this resolution which is riding a coach and four through the Government of India Act, the Legislative Council Rules, the Devolution Rules and also the precedents of other Legislative Assemblies in India and England in which case it is too much, or it is merely our saying that you can do that which the Public Accounts Committee and the Accountant-General will merely treat as a scrap of paper. I am surprised, Mr. President, that the very first use which the new rule 24-A of the Government of India is made of by the Government, to bring forward motions which are not resolutions under our Rules and our Standing Orders, should be for this purpose. I am more surprised that the Finance Member, who ought to keep the financial conscience of this Council and of this Government, should have made himself responsible for a motion which might have been less unjustifiable, if it had come from any Member of the Treasury Bench in charge of the spending departments. I should have expected the hon. the Finance Member to say 'No' to a motion like this if any colleague of his wanted it. Evidently he feels that he must help them to circumvent some how or other the rules under which this Council is functioning and therefore he has made himself responsible for fathering this motion. He gave us instances of sudden rains, non-delivery of materials and contractors not drawing bills. It is a descent from the sublime to the ridiculous. For, when you read the resolution it says that in the case of any major work under the various heads mentioned in it, for which, Mr. President, roughly about three crores were sanctioned last year, if they are incomplete on

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the 1st of April even though there is no provision in the ensuing year, this Council should authorize the continuation of that work for theoretical purposes up to the limit of the previous year's sanctioned appropriation, i.e., on condition that the previous year's total grant for the head concerned has not been exceeded by the expenditure on the work up to that limit. I shall be obliged for some light upon the meaning of that phrase: 'up to that limit.' If it is not tautological, I should like to know what it means there, apart from the limit of the previous year's sanctioned appropriation. Thus in order to authorize him and his spending departments to spend up to the three crores of rupees theoretically, the resolution is put before us. I am sure every lawyer Member of this House will concede that a resolution of this kind has got to be tested by extreme tests. I say that the hon. Member wants power to spend up to three crores of rupees, on the flimsy explanation of contractors' non-delivery of materials, sudden rains and the contractors not drawing bills. It seems to me, Sir, that the hon. the Finance Member has not understood the full scope of his motion, because in the course of his interruptions of the speech of my hon. Friend on this side of the House, Mr. Muttayya Mudaliyar, he gave a totally different picture from what his words convey. And, after all, what we are asked to vote for to-day is not the hon. the Finance Member's speech, but the resolution as it stands. And the resolution is a dangerous inroad on the already restricted financial rights and privileges of this House.

"I will state my points very briefly, Mr. President. This resolution seeks to deprive the budget which comes before the House of one important feature of it, namely, that is a budget for the year, from the 1st April to the 31st of March next. Hereafter the budget we vote for is a budget not only from 1st April 1927 to 31st March 1928 but to the extent of the three crores which come under these heads, it is a budget without any limit of time whatever. They can go on spending on the ground, once a grant always a grant; once we have voted a grant on the ground that the work is incomplete, they can start the work in any current year. The hon. the Finance Member seems surprised, but if he will kindly look at the resolution he will see that it says: 'in the ensuing year's budget up to the limit of the previous year's sanctioned appropriation on condition that the previous year's total grant has not been exceeded, and that a supplementary grant is placed before the Council at its first meeting after the 1st of April.' There is no limit of time as to whether that particular grant should be made necessarily in the ensuing year. In any case even assuming that 'the previous year' there means that it confines it to the previous year according to the time limit, only to one year, even then I suggest that hereafter the budget we will be voting upon is an endless budget, not a budget we will be voting for the particular year. We may vote for so much amount but somehow or other, the Finance Member is going to utilize previous grants for expenditure on services which are not provided in the budget at all. Sir, we are complaining, on this side of the House at least, against the grave limitations under diarchy in the Government of India Act. And our greatest complaint is that with reference to financial powers our hands and feet are tied. If the Finance Member comes down to the House and assures us of sudden rains, contractors not supplying materials and not drawing bills, this House should not voluntarily deprive itself of even the modicum of financial control it has, and authorize the Treasury to go on spending as they please on services not included in the budget. Now, Sir, it may be contended that they have got the power, under the provisions as they stand relating to supplementary demands, for doing this.

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3-30 p.m. "If it is so, I suggest, Mr. President, that they have got such powers as they may require for all practical purposes. My hon. Friend from Tanjore has referred to those rules for a different purpose. I only want to put it to the hon. the Finance Member whether he considers, normally speaking, any contingencies are likely to arise which are not contemplated in the Legislative Council Rule 32. There you find the words 'if the amount is found insufficient or if a need arises for expenditure on some new service not contemplated in the budget for that year,' etc. Now, assuming, Mr. President, according to the illustrations suggested by my hon. Friend, the Finance Member, that by an omission on the part of the spending departments to inform the Finance Department in time, one lakh of rupees necessary for completing the Mettur project is not put in the budget I suggest that the Finance Department can reasonably argue that it is a new service not contemplated in the budget for that year. It is not within the budget. It is not provided for because the Finance Department thought on insufficient or inaccurate information given by the department concerned that they need not make any provision. But suddenly in the course of the year some, new facts are brought before it, that in order to complete the aforesaid Mettur project one lakh of rupees should be provided. Now, I should like to know why they cannot bring forward a supplementary demand saying that it is a new service which they did not contemplate in this year's budget, and bring it up in that form before the House. That seems to me, Sir, to be far more consonant with the spirit of our rules and the spirit of the Government of India Act, than to ask this House to give a *carte blanche* to the Executive, to the spending departments, to spend as much as they like and then come to us afterwards for a supplementary grant.

"Then, Sir, so far as practice in two other provinces is concerned the hon. the Finance Member referred in detail only to one province with regard to which he said—I took down his words—lapses are made good in the next year's budget. Very good. Make good the lapses in the next year's budget. That also you do not want to do. I am quite willing that where you are afraid that amounts may lapse in this year's budget and you want provision made in the next year's budget for these lapses, by all means include that in the Budget. Otherwise I suggest that these bulky volumes which are being thrown at our heads all these weeks are mere scraps of paper intended to mislead this House, if this resolution is going to be accepted. We think that so many crores are going to come as revenue and so many crores are going to be expended and we, like simple children, discuss each item and vote on each item, reduce a few rupees here and a few rupees there. But suddenly behind our back, the Finance Department may authorize the spending of any money on any service not contemplated in the budget at all, the only limit being that in a particular year the Council thinking of the then existing state of finances voted for that sum. Now, Sir, subject to necessary limitations Devolution Rule 38 does give the Finance Department all the power which any Government may require. It says:

"After grants have been voted by the Legislative Council—

'(*a*) the Finance Department shall have power to sanction any reappropriation within a grant from one, major, minor or subordinate, head to another;

(*b*) the Member or Minister in charge of a department shall have power to sanction any reappropriation within a grant between heads subordinate to a minor head which does not involve undertaking a recurring liability, provided that a copy of any order sanctioning such a reappropriation shall be communicated to the Finance Department as soon as it is passed.'

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" Now, Sir, this rule confers on the Finance Department the power which they require. If, however, my hon. Friend contends that it does not confer on them that power, a resolution of this Council is the last way of getting it. It seems to me, Sir, that it is asking this House to amend the Government of India Act, to amend the rules made by the Government of India, both the Devolution Rules and the Legislative Council Rules, for which we have no power. Indeed I had intended to submit them as points of order to you, Sir, but I was so confident of appealing to the common-sense of this House that I did not want to raise them as points of order. Therefore I am placing them before the House as points of argument.

" One last submission, Sir, before I sit down. Every year Parliament passes an Appropriation Act whereby it regularises the expenditure of the kind contemplated here. But that is done for a particular year ; and that is done at the end of the year, so that the appropriations made in that year may have legislative sanction. Therefore if my hon. Friend were to come here and say that for a particular project he wants so many rupees, annas and pies and he puts down a motion, this House has got the power to sanction. But to ask for a kind of *carte blanche* and get this House committed to incoate obligations of expenditure without any limit whatever, excepting the limit of the previous year's appropriation, is not sanctioned either by the Government of India Act, or the Devolution Rules, or by the practice of the Mother of Parliaments. Sir, in the Appropriation Act—I am reading from the Act of 1925—it is stated that

'4. (1) So long as the aggregate expenditure on naval and air services respectively is not made to exceed the aggregate sums appropriated by this Act for those services respectively, any surplus arising on any vote for those services, either by an excess of the sum realized on account of appropriations in aid of the vote over the sum which may be applied under this Act as appropriations in aid of that vote, or by saving of expenditure on that vote, may, with the sanction of the Treasury, be temporarily applied either in making up any deficiency in the sums realized on account of appropriations in aid of any other vote in the same department or in defraying expenditure in the same department which is not provided for in the sums appropriated to the service of the department by this Act.'

" That is the only analogy where there is no provision for the service, but then the Act says 'which may be detrimental to the public service to postpone until provision can be made for it by Parliament in the usual course.' Therefore, what is done by Parliament in regard to this matter is by legislation. I concede for one moment that the hon. the Finance Member may have an unanswerable case on the merits. It may be that fall of sudden rains and contractors' delaying bills, etc., may be such powerful causes that this House may agree to a change in the financial procedure. Assuming that, this is hardly the manner of getting this House committed to this principle. You must move the proper authorities, the Government of India or Parliament, to either amend the Government of India Act or the Devolution Rules or the Legislative Council Rules. You have no right to ask this House to commit itself like that, and I trust no section of this House will be a party to a voluntary deprivation by ourselves of the small financial powers and privileges of control which we exercise, on the doubtful hypothesis that cases may arise where owing to the operation of certain causes it may be necessary for us to authorize the Government to spend moneys without any reference to the actual voting on the budget. I do hope, Sir, that the Government will see the wisdom of withdrawing this resolution. But if they will persist in pressing it, I hope the House will teach them by its vote the unwisdom of their persistence in their error."

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* The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" Sir, if I had been apprised beforehand that a very simple matter and a small issue of this kind was going to induce the hon. Member Mr. Muttayya Mudaliyar and the hon. Member for the University to tear a passion to tatters, I would have amplified the explanation which I have already made in placing this motion before the House. I purposely made my explanation as brief and concise as possible because it was concerned with one small point, and I am sorry that so much has been said which is, if I may say so, so entirely off the track that it is necessary for me to explain to the House again exactly what the motion is. The hon. Member for Tanjore gave us quite a lengthy disquisition on the practice of the British Parliament. I do not propose to follow him in his disquisition, but let me say that it is exactly because our procedure is not that of the British Parliament that this difficulty has arisen. He referred to the extreme strictness of the British Parliament in insisting on control over expenditure. Let me say that in this particular case the control of the British Parliament is far less strict than in our case. The reason why no motion of this kind would be necessary in the British Parliament is that they have got a practice under which the departments in each year find themselves in possession of particular sums at their disposal which they can appropriate in accordance with their requirements. Under our rules that is not the case. When a budget has been passed each department is placed with certain funds at its disposal—not at its general disposal—but each item is earmarked and if a particular item does not appear in the budget, that department has no right to use those moneys for that item until it has been properly sanctioned. Now, I might clear myself of one charge, or rather two charges which have been made by the hon. Member for the University. He expresses astonishment at the first use made of a new rule —24 (*a*) I think it is—in order to bring before the House this particular resolution. May I say that this resolution has nothing to do with that rule? It was discussed in one Public Accounts Committee at least before that rule came into existence, and it was under consideration and drafted in our own Secretariat before that rule was passed, and in the whole discussion about this matter no reference to that rule has ever been made . . ."

* Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" On a point of order, Sir. Then, under what rule has this motion been made? I was under the impression—I see now that I was under a mistaken impression—that this motion could have been made only under Rule 24 (*a*). In view of the hon. the Finance Member's categorical statement that there has been no reference whatever to Rule 24 (*a*) in the course of the whole discussion in the Secretariat, I submit for your ruling, Sir, that this resolution is out of order. May I give my reasons for it, Sir?"

* The hon. the President :—" I was made to understand by the hon. Member for the University that he has abandoned his intention of raising the point of order. Of course, it does not mean that he is prevented from doing so now. If he wants really to raise the point of order, he may give his arguments."

* Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" I did say so, because I was under the impression —mistaken as I now see—that this resolution was brought in under Rule 24 (*a*). If it was not, it is wholly out of order. I shall invite your attention very respectfully to this rule which says :

'Save in so far as is otherwise provided by these rules or in any case in which a communication is to be made to the Government under any provision of the Government of India Act or of these rules no discussion on a matter of general public interest shall take place otherwise than

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on a resolution moved in accordance with the rules governing the moving of motions except with the consent of the President and of the Member of the Government to whose department the motion relates.'

" And I ask you, Sir, to see whether as a matter of fact--I think I am entitled to the information I am asking only for the purpose of elucidating the matter—your consent was asked for, specifying your power under Rule 24 (*a*) and whether you exercised that power vested in you under Rule 24 (*a*) as President of this Council to consent to this resolution being moved; secondly whether the hon. the Finance Member himself as the Member of the Government to whose department the motion relates agreed to have this motion made and asked you for permission as the President; and thirdly, Sir —if you take the departments to which this motion relates, you will find that they are Irrigation and Civil Works which are not in the charge of the hon. the Finance Member as far as I know—whether the Members of the Government to whose departments this relates, the hon. the Second Minister and the hon. the Law Member wanted this motion to be made because these departments relate to them and whether they and you, Sir, between you have agreed to this motion being made.

" Unless it comes under this, I do not think I need argue the obvious, 3-45 p m.
I submit there crn be no motion whatever. On two previous occasions this matter came before the House and I do not think it is necessary to refer to them because you were here and took a keen part in them. Unless the Finance Member claims he is acting unde Rule 24, he is estopped from claiming it now, for he says that it has no place in the whole of the correspondence in the Secretariat, he has given away his case and I do submit for your consideration whether it is open to him to say: I now ask your permission. That should have been done much earlier. The motion has been made admittedly without the formalities insisted upon. As the formalities of Rule 24 have not been observed, the motion should be ruled out of order."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" If any of the Members of Government have got anything to say with regard to the points of order raised by the hon. Member for the University, he may do so. Before that, I should say to the Member for the University that the operation of Rule 24 (*a*) was in my mind when the hon. the Law Member who is responsible for Irrigation moved the matter orally with me on the subject and I have given my permission which was expressly asked for when he made this resolution."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" That is the hon. the Law Member."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Yes."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Therefore he should move the motion, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The matter is one concerning the Finance department as well as the hon. the Law Member and therefore one of the Members of the Cabinet has moved and I think it is perfectly in order."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask your ruling with regard to the statement made by the hon. the Finance Member? If the Government were working in that harmony which one would expect, I should expect him to learn that he has taken the necessary permission and not make the irresponsible statement ' I have nothing to do with it '."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I may inform the hon. Member for the University that the hon. Member did mention that it is the wish of the hon. the Finance Member to move this resolution."

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* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Under 24-A ? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The provisions of 24-A were in my mind."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Both of your minds ? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :— " I cân say, in my mind."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Sir, I am dealing according to your instructions solely with the question of the point of order. Certain defects were pointed out in the department of Irrigation and thereupon the question was raised as to whether this resolution should be framed. And as you have pointed out, Sir, all spending departments involve the co-operation of the Member in direct charge of the department as well as the Finance Member, and I submit that under 24-A the Finance Member is a Member to whose department the motion relates in so far as the expenditure in a certain manner is also comprised in that motion."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" In view of that statement—I accept his reading of the rule for the purpose of argument—may I ask whether the hon. the Law Member considers his having asked the consent of the President is the same as the Member in charge asking and he not being in charge complies with the requirements of the rule which requires the Member in charge of the department and the President should mutually and jointly consider the permission being given ? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The Secretary has sent a note that this resolution is admissible under 24-A and the papers in the file do show that the papers have gone through all the departments concerned. Therefore it is not a very material point now, because the papers have gone through all the departments with which the motion is concerned."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask, including the Finance Department ? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Yes."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I see, my surprise becomes all the greater."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I rule that the resolution is in order under Rule 24-A."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" Sir, one of the disadvantages of those interruptions which the hon. Member for the University deprecates in the case of himself and Members of his party is signally manifested by the discussion which has recently taken place. Does the hon. Member for the University believe that I am under the impression that I am moving this without sanction or under the cover of no rule or procedure ? What I was going to say when he interrupted me was to repudiate the insinuation which he made that we had taken advantage of this new rule in order to bring forward this resolution and to deal with a point which otherwise we should not have done. That insinuation I entirely repudiate and the existence or otherwise of this rule did not influence our discussion or decision on this subject. In the second place, he expressed surprise that I who am in charge of the financial conscience of the Government of Madras should bring this forward. Much, of course, as I regret falling under his censure I am fortified in the sense that I am with the Auditor-General who is the supreme authority in all such matters throughout India not only in the Central Government but also in so far as the Provincial Governments are concerned. And it was

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with reference to express correspondence with him and by his suggestion that this was one possible way out of the difficulty that this motion has been placed before the House. Therefore I may say, Sir, that my financial conscience is supported by so high an authority as the Auditor-General.

" To return to the plain and simple matter now under issue. I admit that owing possibly to my fault, the hon. Member entirely previously misunderstood the scope of the resolution. The scope of the resolution is essentially restricted. In the course of any year you will find in our budget proposals a certain number either of civil works or of irrigation works which are not expected to be completed in that particular year and in such cases the invariable practice is to move for a further provision in the following year. In the case of other works the provision made in the current year is supposed to be ample to bring those works to completion. That is to say, every year there is a certain percentage of works for which final provision is made. In the actual working of the year these cases again fall into three classes. One is those which are actually completed in the year and in connexion with which all financial transactions are completed. Obviously works of that kind will disappear from our budget each year. In the second category come those works which owing to a variety of causes have been found definitely within the year that it will be impossible to complete. In such a case, the departmental officers report to that effect. They say, 'For various reasons, it may be due to the paucity of materials or any other cause we cannot make the progress that we anticipated and it will be impossible for us to complete the building within the year. In such and such a case, we can spend only two lakhs out of the five provided. Will you kindly allow us to relinquish three lakhs and make provision for the three lakhs in the following year?' It is to a further small class of cases that this resolution is entirely confined in which it is discovered too late, perhaps in the last week of the year, that for some cause or other they will have to go on working say, for a fortnight before completing or that certain payments for which provision has been made have not actually been disbursed until April. Suppose as may happen in some cases that the contractors get their bills passed on the 29th March and the treasury is closed for the next two days. There are no arrangements by which the bill can be drawn before the treasury reopens. When it is presented in the treasury, the fact remains that there are no funds provided in the budget for the new year because it was anticipated that the work could be completed the previous year. This way our difficulty arises. Strictly speaking, expenditure of that kind is not regular. There is no provision made for that particular item in the next year's budget. Then the hon. Member from Tanjore suggested that what we should do was to call for a special meeting of this Council. To do what? The business of the Council may be for half an hour to sanction an expenditure of a few thousand rupees. I have stated the practice, the work continues or payments are made, but that expenditure is not regular. The House fully intended that that expenditure should be met and that full provision should be made. But there is this technical difficulty that it was expected to be completed and there is a small balance to be met. Of course, the people who object are the Audit department. But the Audit department, I think, entirely realize that where they have to object it is purely a technical objection simply because, if I may say so, it is one of those matters for which our financial and business rules do not provide. Apparently in summing up all possible cases that could occur,

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no provision was made for regularizing cases of this kind. I think the hon. Member for the University it was who challenged the view that this could be met under Rule 32. Of course, he was destroying not by my argument, but the argument of the hon. Member for Tanjore. I entirely agree with the hon. Member for the University that the amount can be regularized by a supplemental or additional grant under Rule 32. I am not particular whether it comes under 32 (1) (i) or 32 (1) (ii). I am perfectly certain that it comes under one or other of these provisions. But the difficulty as regards appropriation to which I think also he referred is this that you can reappropriate within a grant from a major head to a major head or a minor head to a minor head but you cannot without the sanction of the Council provide for expenditure to which the Council has not given its assent under the powers of reappropriation.

4 p.m. "If you have got schemes *A* and *B*, and you find that on one major head *A* you cannot spend the whole amount provided and that you have to spend a little more under *B*, then a reappropriation will be possible. But you cannot introduce scheme *C* to which the Council has not given its assent and then reappropriate from *A* or *B* to *C*, and that is where the whole difficulty lies. Now, I would invite the attention of the hon. Member for the University to the actual terms of this resolution. 'That in the case of any major work. . . . which is incomplete on the 1st April and for which there is no provision in the ensuing year's budget,' why is there no provision? Because, we expected it to be completed. But a small expenditure amounting to a thousand rupees say, on a big work has lapsed and has to be provided for in the next year. Then, 'this Council authorizes the continuation of the work up to the limit of the previous year's sanctioned appropriation'; that is to say, suppose the appropriation was for Rs. 1½ lakhs we have spent Rs. 1,49,000, and this resolution, if carried, would sanction the expenditure of that thousand rupees. (Mr. S. Satyamurti : Rs. 1·49 lakhs also.) A lakh and forty-nine thousands has been expended in the current year! (Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti : Only one thousand rupees out of Rs. 1½ lakhs might have been spent in a particular year.) Such a case could not possibly occur (laughter). How could an engineer who has been given a grant of Rs. 1½ lakhs have spent only Rs. 1,000 in the year and not know that Rs. 1·49 lakhs had not been expended and fail to apply for provision in the following year? (Mr. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar : The engineer might have been particularly idle and slept all the year.) I think, Sir, this Council will deal with the practical aspects of the case. (Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—Possible aspects.) Then, the resolution says 'on condition that the previous year's total grant for the head concerned has not been exceeded by the expenditure on the work up to that limit'. Why is that put in? It is because of this very fact that the reappropriation may have taken place during the course of the year, and that is expressly put in in order to prevent this resolution from being used as a cover to exceeding the grant of the previous year. Suppose that one thousand rupees had already been appropriated to some other object than the grant; it would not be possible under the cover of this resolution to increase the total grant by Rs. 1,000. Then, it is said 'that a supplementary demand for the amount to be expended in the current year is placed before the Council at its first meeting after the 1st of April'. I think the hon. Member for the University will agree that such a supplementary demand can be moved. (Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti : No). It was also rather

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astonishing to hear the expression 'crores', as if we were dealing with crores. Before I sit down, I shall place before the Council the actual facts. I have here a statement showing the average lag of expenditure which would come under this resolution for the three years ending with 1925-26 :—

Under Civil Works, Provincial—Transferred	..	Rs.	24,193
Under ,, Reserved	..	,,	344
Under 60. Civil Works	..	,,	2,601
Under 15. Irrigation	..	,,	6,000
Under 55. Irrigation	..	,,	11,920

What we have got is a lag of expenditure of something like Rs. 30,000. May I say I have no desire to press this resolution ? (Mr. S. Satyamurti : Hear, hear.) Why should I ? May I say this to the hon. Members on the front Opposition bench ? I hope they will pay more attention to the authority I am going to quote as to the reason why I came before this House. It was under the expressed desire of the Public Accounts Committee, a Statutory Committee of this House. Their express wish was that this matter should be examined, and it was our bounden duty to comply with that wish, and we have done so. If the House regards the matter of such little importance that it is unnecessary to regulate and regularize it, then there is no reason why the Government should really feel distressed. All I can say is that I will of course inform the Auditor and the Public Accounts Committee of the result of our discussion and I will express the hope that in dealing with our accounts hereafter in cases of this kind, instead of treating them as matters to which we must devote our earnest attention with the object of finding the remedy, these authorities will be so good as to treat them as purely technical objections."

The resolution was put and negatived.

X

THE PRESIDENCY SMALL CAUSE COURTS (MADRAS AMENDMENT) BILL, 1927.

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Mr. President, Sir, this Bill is a formal one, but in its own way it has some importance. Hon. Members who are acquainted with the practice of the courts in Madras are aware of this, that under chapter VII of the Presidency Small Cause Courts Act there is a summary procedure for the recovery of possession of immovable property when any person has possession of that property of which the annual value does not exceed one thousand rupees. This gives certain summary powers for ejectment or ejection. It so happens that the Small Cause Courts Act was passed in 1882 and the City Civil Court Act in 1892. The result of this is that in cases appertaining to questions of title which under chapter VII of the Small Cause Courts Act are not precluded from being litigated upon in the ordinary courts, that is in the High Court, which was the ordinary court in 1882, the difficulty arises that all these suits must be filed in the High Court. Otherwise, if they are filed in the City Civil Court, according to existing law, the question of *res judicata* is raised, on the ground that the words ' City Civil Court ' does not occur in the Act of 1882, thus precluding questions of title. For these reasons, I move that the Bill be read in Council."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :— "I second it."

The motion was put and adopted.

The Secretary then read the title of the Bill.

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I now request, Sir, that you will suspend Standing Order 39."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" May I know the reason why ?

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The real reason has been stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. A number of suits are being held up now, and the cases which ought to be filed in the City Civil Court are all being filed in the High Court and it has been pointed out by the High Court that it causes both expense and delay."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Has not the High Court power to transfer suits to the City Civil Court ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" No, no. They have not got the power. The reason is this : the moment a suit is transferred to the City Civil Court the question of *res judicata* again comes up. You must first of all pay institution fees on the High Court scale, and then if the suit is transferred you cannot apply for a refund."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Has the Leader of the Opposition any objection to suspend Standing Order 39 ? "

* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" The only motion on the agenda is leave to introduce this Bill. No notice is given about suspending the Standing Order."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Notice is given, Sir."

* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" I am sorry, I am mistaken."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I suspend the operation of Standing Order 39."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I move, Sir, with your permission that the Bill be taken into consideration."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I beg to second it."

* Mr. C. S. GOVINDARAJA MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, it will be interesting to know from the hon. the Law Member why this piecemeal legislation has been brought before this House. He is well aware, as most lawyers in Madras are, that there is another crying evil with regard to the Small Cause Courts Act. I refer to the anomaly of the Full Bench trials, applications as they are called, put down in the Act as new trials. The inconvenience caused to all people concerned in the litigation is so great that it has been commented upon very adversely, and even before the Civil Justice Committee this matter was brought into prominence. One of the distinguished lawyers in Madras, Mr. Radhakrishna Ayyar, has to say something about this, and I cannot put the case better than how he has put it. He was one of the co-opted members of the Civil Justice Committee, and he says in his written memorandum :

'The system of new trials by a Full Bench of Judges may be done away with and the unsuccessful party may be given a right to apply to the High Court for revision on terms similar to section 25 of the Provincial Small Cause Courts Act. Not only would this suggestion relieve the Judges of the Small Cause Court of work which occupies a good deal of their time at present, but it has also the additional advantage of giving to parties a more satisfactory remedy than the

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present new trial application. Almost all the witnesses who have any experience of the Small Cause Court have stated to the Committee in their evidence that this system by which an application for new trial from the judgment of one Judge of the Small Cause Court is heard by a Full Bench of two or three judges, of which the trial judge is himself a member, has been found to be unsatisfactory. Formerly the new trial applications were heard by all the three judges, the trial judge being one of them. Recently the practice has been altered and the new trial applications are heard by two judges, one of whom is the trial judge. I can say from my experience of the Small Cause Court that I entirely agree with the opinion given by the witnesses who gave evidence before the Committee that a system by which a judge who has tried the case sits as a member of the appellate tribunal is most unsatisfactory . . . '

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Before the hon. Member proceeds further, I wish to know how the debate which he has now raised is in order as far as the principles of the Bill now under consideration are concerned. The Bill for consideration before the House is only to add the words 'City Civil Court' in all cases where 'High Court' appears. That amounts to giving concurrent jurisdiction to the High Court as well as to the City Civil Court. Because the hon. Member raised a debate on the new trial system and other matters, I wanted to know how it is pertinent to the principles of the Bill now before the House." 4-15 p.m.

* Mr. C. S. GOVINDARAJA MUDALIYAR :—" As I began, Mr. President, Sir, I wanted to raise the question why the hon. the Law Member has not thought fit to bring in a more consolidating measure and thought fit to confine himself to one point which is said to be a desideratum in the Presidency Small Cause Courts jurisdiction. This question of new trial or Full Bench application is in fact as urgent, if not more urgent than any other and the hon. the Law Member knows full well, as any lawyer in Madras knows, that this is a crying evil which has to be put down as quickly as possible. I want to know as to why the hon. the Law Member omitted to bring this particular amendment also into the Bill that he has sought to place before the House."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I believe the proper stage to raise such questions is at the second reading stage or the third reading stage of the Bill. There may be grounds for not accepting the Bill. If the hon. Member wants to raise any objections, he may do so only at the third reading stage and not at this stage."

* Mr. C. S. GOVINDARAJA MUDALIYAR :—" May I submit that this is the stage at which leave is asked for introduction of the Bill? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" We have finished the stage of the introduction of the Bill. That is what is known as the second reading of the Bill. We are now considering the provisions of the Bill. At this stage, if the hon. Member so wishes, he may commit the Bill to a select committee or offer criticisms as to why we should not consider this Bill. But the real stage for advancing reasons for rejection is either second reading stage or third reading stage."

* Mr. C. S. GOVINDARAJA MUDALIYAR :—" If the President will allow me to state at a later stage what I have got to state, I shall be perfectly content."

The motion that the Bill be taken into consideration was put and carried.

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" In moving now that the Bill be passed into law, may I make an observation or two? I realize what has fallen from my hon. Friend the Member for Madras. The question has been raised that this Bill must have been of a more comprehensive character . . ."

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Standing Order 48 says that it shall be in the discretion of the President to submit the Bill or any part of the Bill to the Council clause by clause. Then comes the stage for passing the Bill."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I move that clause 1 do stand part of the Bill."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I second it."

The motion was put and carried and clause 1 was made part of the Bill."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I move that clause 2 do stand part of the Bill."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I second it."

The motion was put and passed and clause 2 was made part of the Bill.

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I move, Sir, the preamble of the Bill."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I second it."

The motion was put and passed.

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I now move that the provisions of the Bill having been considered, the Bill be passed into law."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I second it. "

* Mr. C. S. GOVINDARAJA MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, may I now finish my remarks ?

' The system has led in some instances to no small wrangles between the trial judge and the vakil for appellants, and some trial judges, though not all, have displayed while sitting in the Full Bench, a violent tendency to support their own judgments. I think this is good neither for the judges nor for the litigants and it should be abolished.'

" Therefore, I said that this constitutes a crying evil and a sore point in the administration of justice in the City of Madras, and this anomaly which was introduced several years ago, ought to be looked into and dealt with summarily by abolishing the Full Bench applications. Although a suggestion was thrown out by the Committee in their report that the system that is in vogue in the City of Bombay, viz., that the Chief Judge and two other judges should constitute the bench ought to be adopted in Calcutta and Madras, and the new innovation of having the trial judge and Chief Judge alone sitting ought to be done away with, no step has been taken by the learned Chief Judge of the Small Cause Court and it is a matter for comment that the Government have not issued directions to the learned Chief Judge to conform to the practice in Bombay and not to have all the three judges constituted as Full Bench. I therefore draw the attention of this hon. House to this sore point in the administration of justice in the Small Cause Court, and submit that this Bill is incomplete in not having dealt with all the points that require consideration. I therefore request the hon. the Law Member to say whether he is prepared to bring in another amending Bill ; if not, I would request the hon. House to consider whether it cannot by its vote compel the Government to bring in a better consolidating Bill."

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The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"In answer to what has fallen from the hon. Member for Madras, I am sure he is aware that I waived my right to give evidence in camera and gave evidence in public before the Civil Justice Committee strongly condemning the practice adverted to by the hon. Member. I have never concealed my opinion and I gave it fairly strongly that I considered the system of new trial a mistake. (Mr. S. Satyamurti : 'Why not change it?') As a matter of fact, there are 20 or 25 points which have to be changed with regard to the Small Cause Court. They are being considered. All I can say is that Government will endeavour to bring forward an amending Bill with regard to the Presidency Small Cause Courts and also I think a Bill with reference to the City Civil Court very shortly. That is all I can say so far as this Bill is concerned. The urgency for the Bill is patent from the fact that a number of suits are unnecessarily brought to the High Court which could otherwise be disposed of in the Civil Court."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—"I ask whether this legislation adverted to by the hon. the Law Member will be introduced in the course of this year."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"Yes, of course. Not this session."

The motion was put and passed, and the Bill was passed into law.

XI

THE MADRAS PREVENTION OF ADULTERATION ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

*The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—"I beg leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Madras Prevention of Adulteration Act, 1918.

"In doing so, Sir, I beg to make a few remarks explaining the necessity for this amending Bill. The original Act, The Madras Prevention of Adulteration Act, passed in 1918 has not been applied to any part of the Presidency for the reason that to begin with it was found that there were some defects in the original Act which would have to be remedied before we applied it to the Presidency. And secondly, section 20 of the Act necessitated the preparation of a standard of purity for the various classes of foodstuffs and till we have had a public analyst and till he had analysed and the standard has been prescribed, the Act could not be brought into force. A Public Analyst was appointed in 1924 and immediately he started work on the analysis of food-stuffs.

"He analysed the various kinds of food-stuffs and prescribed various standards for various food-stuffs. He also pointed out the defects that existed in the original Act which had to be remedied before we could bring the Act into operation. The chief defects the amending Bill is intended to remedy are as follows . . ." 4-30 p.m.

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"I want to raise a point of order. Is a speech permitted at the stage of the introduction of a Bill?"

*The hon. the President :—"This is not a case where leave to introduce a Bill is asked. This is a case where a Bill is introduced. In this case, a speech explaining the principles of the Bill may be made."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"I beg your pardon, Sir."

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* The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" The amending Bill proposes to prevent the adulteration of certain articles of food. In the case of milk it proposes to prevent the sale of foremilk by defining milk in the following manner: 'Milk means the normal clean secretion obtained by milking the udder of a healthy cow or buffalo either completely or to completion after the first portion of the milk has been taken direct from the udder by a calf.' It further proposes to prevent the sale of watered milk for the reason that in this country water-borne diseases such as cholera, etc., are due to watered milk. The original Act contains no provision for the prohibition of the sale of skimmed milk. It is known that the skimmed milk is not fit for consumption by babies. Another thing the amending Act proposes to prevent is the adding of colouring matter. It also proposes to amplify the provision in section 5 (2) of the original Act by including in it, storage of unfit articles for sale. The amending Bill has been prepared with a view to remedy the defects that were found in the original Act. As I have explained there have been a separate set of standards of food materials prepared and Government would take the necessary steps by means of executive action later on. I beg leave therefore to introduce this amending Bill."

* The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I second it."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I do not want to say anything except this. With reference to the definition of 'Milk' the amending Bill says: 'Milk means the normal clean secretion obtained by milking the udder of a healthy cow or buffalo either completely or to completion after the first portion of the milk has been taken direct from the udder by a calf.' There are some cows and many buffaloes without calves and yet they are milked. They give large quantites of milk which is considered by doctors to be pure and fit for consumption. Is it the intention of my hon. Friend to prevent by this definition the milking of all such buffaloes and cows ? "

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Before the hon. Minister gets up to reply I wish to put one or two questions. I wish to know why goats are excluded. Is it because goats' milk is supposed to be medicinal ? Sir, donkeys also have been excluded. (Laughter). It is a well known fact that donkey milk is used as medicine in several cases. Why is it that these have been excluded ? In clause 4 tea is included. These things may be explained if any decision has been come to with regard to them."

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" Just on the lines mentioned by the previous speakers I should like to know what the hon. Minister means by saying in the definition to 'Milk', 'Milk' means the normal clean secretion obtained by milking the udder of a healthy cow or buffalo either completely or to completion after the first portion of the milk has been taken direct from the udder by a calf'. The practice as far as I know is to give the calf a little milk just before milking and serve more at the end. By saying 'milking to completion' does the hon. Minister mean that the milk shall not be given to the calf at the end ? If that is so, it is cruel and a great hardship."

* Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" As one coming from a district where tea is produced I have pleasure in supporting the introduction of this Bill. I wish to bring to the notice of the House that a certain amount of tea leaves taken from the pruned branches are sent to different places with the object of

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using them for dyeing. I cannot say whether they are sent for that purpose or to be consumed as tea for drinking. I think it is essential that tea is included."

The motion was put and carried.

The Secretary read the title of the Bill.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I beg leave now to move that the Bill to amend the Madras Prevention of Adulteration Act, 1918, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following hon. Members :—

Mr. Abbas Ali Khan,
Mr. C. B. Cotterell,
Mrs. S. Muthulakshmi Reddi,
The Raja of Ramnad,
Mr. J. A. Saldanha,
Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti,
Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar,
Lieut.-Col. A. J. H. Russell,
Mr. H. Hawley and
The Mover."

* The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I second the motion."

Mr. P. BAKTHAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" Mr. President, if the number is not to be confined to ten only, may I have permission to propose the inclusion of the name of Dr. Mallayya from Madras ? "

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" I thought there was an understanding—a sort of convention—that in proposing the names of members for Select Committees the leaders of parties should be consulted as to their composition. I am very much surprised that the hon. Minister has overlooked this convention."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I know that when the motion was received in the Council office the list of members of the Select Committee was not found. I then asked for it. Was the list circulated to the Members of the House ? " (Cries of ' No, No. ')

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" I may submit, Sir, that I did not see the paper."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" As the hon. Members had only short notice, I give permission to any Member to move amendments to this motion."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I have no objection to include the name of Dr. Mallayya."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, we are anxious to establish proper traditions in the matter. May I support the point raised by the Leader of the Opposition and appeal to the Minister to consult us on this side and somebody on the other side of the House and agree to a few names ? None of us is anxious to be in or out of the Committee. But the Select Committee should as far as possible represent the strength of parties in the House. I think it was agreed in your predecessor's time that it should be done in consultation with leaders of parties in the House, so that the names may be put through without discussion, instead of moving amendments and voting upon them which is in all cases an undesirable and inconvenient procedure."

Rao Sahib R. SRINIVASAN :—" I propose the name of Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai for inclusion in the list."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Is the hon. Minister agreeing to the names suggested ? "

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I have no objection to the names suggested, viz., Dr. Mallayya, Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao, Mr. Syed Ibrahim Sahib and Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" If my hon. Friend does not think that the number is too many, on behalf of my party may I request him to include the name of Mr. Durai Raja also in the list ? "

4-45 p.m. * The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member may withdraw the names already mentioned and give a final list of members of the Select Committee."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" This will be the final list. The Select Committee will be composed of the following hon. Members :—

Mr. Abbas Ali Khan,
Mr. C. B. Cotterell,
Mrs. S. Muthulakshmi Reddi,
The Raja of Ramnad,
Mr. J. A. Saldanha,
Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti,
Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar,
Lt.-Col. A. J. H. Russell,
Mr. H. Hawley,
Dr. B. S. Mallayya,
Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao,
Mr. D. K. Syed Ibrahim Sahib,
Mr. S. Durai Raja,
Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai and
The hon. Minister for Public Health."

The motion that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the members referred to above was put to the House and adopted.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Under Standing Order No. 40 (3), I appoint Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi as the Chairman of the Committee."

XII

THE MADRAS HIGH COURT (JURISDICTIONAL LIMITS) BILL (BILL No. 3 OF 1927).

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR —" Mr. President, Sir, this Bill is also a formal one which has to be enacted in consequence of the increase in the territorial limits of the Corporation of Madras on account of the new development schemes in Mambalam and certain other areas which have been included in the jurisdiction of the Corporation of Madras. Under the Letters Patent, the High Court shall have original civil jurisdiction within such limits as may be declared by any law made by the Governor in Council. The Letters Patent and the proclamation issued in connexion with the jurisdiction fixed a certain area for the jurisdiction of the High Court and that area is now sought to be extended. I therefore move that the Madras High Court (Jurisdictional Limits) Bill be read in Council."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " I second it."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, I wish to get some information from the hon. the Law Member. I do not want to oppose the measure ; I only wish to clear some doubts regarding the Bill. The effect of the Bill will be to extend the territorial jurisdiction of the High Court over certain areas and as a consequence, the jurisdiction of the corresponding civil courts in the Chingleput district will be removed. There are some privileges and restrictions with regard to the appearance of pleaders in these courts and the High Court. For instance, the conditions that ought to be fulfilled before a pleader appears in the Original Side of the High Court are not always the same as those for appearing in the mufassal courts. I want to know how this Bill will affect the appearance of pleaders in these courts.

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"Secondly, there was a practice in the days when I was an apprentice—I do not know what the practice at present is—by which on payment of a court fee of Rs. 30 one can claim any amount or property in the Original Side of the High Court. In the mufuassal corts the court fee is regulated according to the value of the amount or property claimed. I wish to know again whether any interference will be made with the existing practice with regard to court-fees which would act prejudicially on the litigants of the area now proposed to be included in the jurisdiction of the High Court. These are some of the questions that suggest themselves to me and I wish to know what the effect of the Bill will be on these points. I have not exhaustively referred to all the difficulties; I have only given a few illustrations of the difficulties that might arise."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"Under section 62 of the Government of India Act the Governor of Madras in Council may, with the approval of the Secretary of State in Council and by notification, extend the limits of the town of Madras; and any Act of Parliament, Letters Patent, Charter, law or usage conferring jurisdiction, power or authority within the limits of the town shall have effect within the limits as so extended. The administrative limits of Madras has been extended to include Mambalam and a few other places. Under the Letters Patent and the proclamation issued when the Letters Patent was passed the jurisdiction of the High Court inures there also. It is clear anyhow that the jurisdiction of the Chingleput court does not exist over that area under the combined operation of the Civil Courts Act and section 62 of the Government of India Act. There is also a doubt whether any court can exercise jurisdiction in that area. That is the reason why it has become necessary to bring this Bill.

"Apart from that, one of the points raised by the hon. Member from Malabar was with reference to the appearance of practitioners in the courts. The hon. Member is aware that there is no distinction of grades with regard to the appearance of pleaders in the Original Side of the High Court. I am not referring to the Insolvency Court. Such differences as there were have been abolished recently. There is a distinction made with reference to the appearance of first and second grade pleaders in the High Court. That question may arise. That is to say, with reference to any dispute that may arise in the village of Mambalam and the other outlying parts which are now added to the town, whereas first and second grade pleaders can appear in the court of Chingleput, they cannot do so now in the High Court. The insolvency jurisdiction is separate.

"As regards court-fees, the thirty rupees court-fees has been abolished and a different system of court-fees is now in vogue. But it is not as heavy as in the mufassal, though much heavier than before."

* Mr. S. Satyamurti:—"Rupees 150."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"Rupees 150 in the High Court; but it is much less in the City Civil Court. There is no question of an increase or decrease so far as the smaller litigation is concerned. With regard to the bigger litigation in the High Court also, there is no other inconvenience. In order to assimilate the administrative jurisdiction which has been extended to Mambalam with the judicial jurisdiction this Bill is introduced."

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The question that the Bill be read in Council was put to the House and adopted.

The Secretary read the title of the Bill.

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Sir, I request you to suspend the operation of Standing Order 39."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I suspend the operation of the Standing Order."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Sir, I move that clause 1 do stand part of the Bill."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I second it."

The motion was put and carried and clause 1 was made part of the Bill.

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Sir, I move that the schedule do stand part of the Bill."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I second it."

The motion was put and carried and the schedule was made part of the Bill.

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I move that the preamble do stand part of the Bill."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I second it."

The motion was put and carried and the preamble was made part of the Bill.

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I move that the Bill be passed into law."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I second it."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

XIII

A BILL TO REPEAL THE MADRAS PLANTERS LABOUR ACT, 1903 (BILL No. 7 OF 1927).

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Sir, His Excellency the Governor in his opening address to the Legislative Council said that the Madras Government have decided to repeal the Planters Labour Act subject to the consent of the Government of India. The consent of the Government of India having been obtained, it is now my duty to introduce this Bill. It has been found that modern public opinion regards with disapproval the existence of such penal laws. Even in the colonies where Indian labour is employed there are no such provisions. Further, the Government of India repealed the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act last year. On account of this we find that we are unable to justify the retention of the Madras Planters Labour Act on the Statute Book which gives statutory control over labour only in two districts. For these reasons we thought that the best thing was to repeal the Act. Originally we

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thought of removing the penal provisions alone. In that case the principle features of the Act will disappear. Under the circumstances, Government came to the conclusion to repeal the whole Act. I move that the Bill to repeal the Madras Planters Labour Act of 1903 be read in Council."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I second it."

* Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"Sir, with your permission I wish to clear up one point. I am a new Member and from the way in which the Bill is proceeding I am at a loss to know when I should rise to move an amendment which I want to make to this Bill. I want to be given an opportunity to move that in sub-clause (*b*) of clause 1 the figure '1927 be substituted for the figure '1930'. I request you to give me an opportunity at the proper moment."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member being new to the House, I may advise him that the proper time for him to put forward his amendment will be when the Bill is considered clause by clause. But since notice had been given that all the stages of the Bill would be gone through in one sitting the hon. Member is expected to give notice of his amendment so that there might be no objection. But since the hon. Member is new I may exercise my discretion at the proper time and excuse short notice."

* Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"Thank you, Sir."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, the point raised by my hon. friend struck me also. This is the day when the Bill is introduced and its provisions are being discussed and one of its provisions is that the Act shall come into force on the 1st day of April 1930. 5 p.m.

"I think that is a principle which should be objected to at this stage of the Bill, i.e., when the Bill is being introduced and when the principles and details are being discussed. I take objection to the provision that the Act should come into force only on the 1st of April 1930. I can very well understand the hon. the Home Member's desire which is stated in the statement of objects and reasons that some time should be given to the industry, viz., the planting industry to adjust itself to the changing state of things so that its interests may not be prejudiced. It is quite reasonable that it should be given some time. But I think that three years' time from this date is not necessary to enable the planters to get over the difficulties that may arise. I think that six months will do. In any case one year from this date will be quite adequate for the planters. Three years seems to be quite unnecessary. It is practically taking away with one hand for a period of three years what is given by the other. If these defects will be rectified, I support the Bill."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Sir, I beg to point out that there are two parts in the Planters Labour Act. One part of it deals with penalties for breach of contract, etc. The other part of it is of a humanitarian character. It makes it compulsory that the planters should give the labourers amenities of life, such as, dispensaries, etc. This Bill goes so far as not only to cancel the penal provisions but also the humanitarian provisions. I shall have no objection to this Bill being read in Council if there is a guarantee that the Government or some hon. Member of this House would bring forward a Bill to retain the humanitarian provisions. I myself sent a Bill to the Government three years ago with this object. The Government appointed a committee. As a result of the deliberations of the committee this Bill was drafted and

[Mr. J. A. Saldanha] [1st March 1927

introduced. One condition the committee laid down before signing its report was that we should be allowed to bring about harmonious relations between the employees and the planters by means of a Bill. I may point out, Sir, that a large number of labourers in South Kanara and other districts will suffer otherwise. If this Bill is passed, it will deprive the labourers of the benefit of getting money from the employers without interest. The planters will not give any advance. I hope that a Bill will be brought forward in order to place the relations between both sides on a more harmonious footing so that both the parties will be benefited."

The motion that the Bill be read in Council was put and carried.

The Secretary then read the title of the Bill.

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN Sahib Bahadur :—"As there is some difference of opinion among the hon. Members, I move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. The undermentioned hon. Members will constitute the Select Committee :—

Mr. K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar,	Mr. J. A. Saldanha,
Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan,	Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao,
Mr. C. R. T. Congreve,	Mr. S. H. Slater,
Rao Bahadur K. Sitarama Reddi,	Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar and
Mr. T. K. Chidambaranatha Mudaliyar,	The Mover."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I beg to second the motion."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was referred to the Select Committee.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Under Standing Order 40 (3) I appoint Mr. J. A. Saldanha as the Chairman of the Select Committee.

"Hon. Members may have noticed that starred questions to be answered on each day are printed and placed on the table of the House on the previous day, when the Council is sitting. I hope that the new system will be found to be more convenient than the old, by which hon. Members were given notice only of the numbers of questions."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Thursday, the 3rd instant.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 157 asked by Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 1st March 1927, page 45 supra.]

STAFF SELECTION BOARD, MADRAS.

Annual report of work done during 1924–25.

Constitution.—In G.O. No. 76, Public, dated the 6th February 1924, the Government directed the constitution with effect from the 1st April 1924 of the Staff Selection Board consisting of five members (three officials and two non-officials). The official members were the Chief Secretary to Government (Chairman), the Surgeon-General and the Director of Public Instruction; the two non-official members, appointed by the Government in G.O. No. 278, Public, dated the 14th April 1924, were M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur W. L. Venkataramayya Garu, B.A., B.L., retired District and Sessions Judge, and Khan Sahib Mir Riazuddin Sahib Bahadur, retired Assistant Commissioner of Salt.

The Secretary to the Commissioner for Government Examinations was appointed Secretary to the Board on the 16th April 1925.

2. *Meetings.*—During the year under report the Board held seven meetings. The principal business transacted was the interviewing and selection of candidates for certain appointments for which the Board was asked to select candidates.

3. *Selection of candidates.*—(*a*) In paragraph 4 of G.O. No. 76, Public, dated the 6th February 1924, the main functions of the Board were described to be the—

(i) selection of candidates for all Government offices in the City of Madras; and

(ii) selection of candidates for non-gazetted posts above the lowest grade.

For the selection of candidates for clerical posts in Government offices in the City of Madras, the Commissioner for Government Examinations at the request of the Board held a qualifying examination in December 1924. The subjects of the examination were: English composition, Précis-writing and General knowledge. A fee of Rs. 5 for each candidate was prescribed by the Board. In view of the very large number of applications received, the Board considered it impracticable to interview the candidates first and make selections from among them for admission to the qualifying examination and accordingly, with the permission of Government, subjected the candidates to the qualifying test before the interview. Altogether 150 candidates applied and all but two of them satisfied the conditions of admission to the qualifying examination. One hundred and forty actually appeared for the examination. A list of the 41 candidates finally declared eligible for appointment was published in the *Fort St. George Gazette.*

(*b*) Candidates were also selected by the Board for the following non-gazetted posts :—

(1) Sub-inspectors of police for the Madras City;
(2) Sub-registrars—upper grade; and
(3) Probationary deputy tahsildars.

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The selections in these cases were made solely by personal interview and without any special qualifying examination.

(c) One candidate for the post of sub-inspector of police and three candidates for probationary deputy tahsildarship were disqualified by the Board under the rule prohibiting canvassing.

(d) At the request of Government candidates from the Madras Presidency for admission to the qualifying examination conducted by the Government of India in connexion with the Indian Audit and Accounts Service were selected by the Board in April 1924 and a list of the names of persons selected was submitted to the Local Government.

(e) With a view to carrying out the policy of providing equal opportunities for service under Government for different communities the Board, with the approval of Government, adopted as a general rule in framing its lists of selections, whether for clerical or for executive work, the following proportions of communal representation:—

	Per cent.
Non-Brahmans	40
Muhammadans	20
Brahmans	20
Anglo-Indians and Indian Christians	10
Depressed class and others	10

These proportions were adopted only as a general standard, provided suitable candidates were forthcoming and without prejudice to the selection of any specially well-qualified individual in any community.

(f) A statement showing by communities the total number of applicants registered, number rejected and the number finally selected by the Board for each of the appointments for which the board functioned during the year is appended (Appendix A).

4. *Financial.*—(a) The total amount of fees realized from candidates who appeared for the qualifying examination for clerkship in the city offices was Rs. 750; an expenditure of Rs. 465 was incurred on account of remuneration to the examiners in connexion with the examination.

(b) Excluding remuneration to the examiners the total expenditure on account of the Board and its establishment during the financial year under report was Rs. 1,635 as shown in the statement appended (Appendix B).

A. Hanumantha Rao,
Secretary.

APPENDIX A.

Statement showing the total number of candidates registered, rejected and selected by the Staff Selection Board at the various selections.

Appointments.	Number registered.							Number rejected as not qualified.							Number finally selected by the Staff Selection Board.						
	Non-Brahmans.	Muhammadans.	Brahmans.	Christians.	Anglo-Indians.	Depressed class and others.	Total.	Non-Brahmans.	Muhammadans.	Brahmans.	Christians.	Anglo-Indians.	Depressed class and others.	Total.	Non-Brahmans.	Muhammadans.	Brahmans.	Christians.	Anglo-Indians.	Depressed class and others.	Total.
1. Indian Audit and Account Service, 1924.	5	..	27	4	..	..	36	None were rejected.							2	..	6	1	..	..	9
2. Sub-Inspectors of Madras City Police.	155	53	126	28	18	3	383	94	31	80	15	16	1	237	10	5	5	2	..	1	23
3. Probationary Sub-Registrars, Upper grade.	88	22	99	13	1	..	223	79	18	70	12	1	..	180	4	2	2	1	..	1	10
4. Probationary Deputy Tahsildars.	107	22	100	25	3	15	272	47	9	38	14	..	..	108	4	2	2	1	..	1	10
5. Clerical staffs in Government offices in the City of Madras.	31	3	94	8	2	2	140	12	1	74	2	..	1	90	15	2	16	6	1	1	41

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APPENDIX B.

Statement showing the amount of expenditure incurred by the Staff Selection Board during 1924–25.

Major head and sub-head.	Charges. RS.	A.	P.
Pay and allowances of establishment	505	6	0
Allowances—			
Travelling allowances paid to non-official members of the Board	845	13	0
Contingencies—			
(a) Service postage	150	0	0
(b) Other contingencies	133	13	0
Total ...	1,635	0	0

Annual report of work done during 1925–26.

Constitution.—No changes were effected in the constitution of the Staff Selection Board except that Government directed in G.O. Mis. No. 555, Public, dated 8th June 1925, that the Assistant Secretary to Government in the Chief Secretariat should be the Secretary to the Staff Selection Board so long as the Chief Secretary to Government was the Chairman of the Board. As a result of this change, the office of the Secretary to the Board, which was previously located in the office of the Commissioner for Government Examinations, was removed to the Secretariat buildings, Fort St. George, early in June 1925.

2. *Clerical establishment.*—In view of the expansion of the functions of the Board from time to time, the Government sanctioned the appointment of a head clerk and a second clerk in lieu of a single steno-typist who was helped by a temporary clerk engaged whenever the work was very heavy.

3. *Meetings.*—During the year under report, the Board held eight meetings, the principal business transacted being, as usual, the interview and selection of candidates for certain appointments for which the Board was asked to select candidates.

4. (*a*) *Selection of candidates for clerical posts in Government offices in the City of Madras.*—The Government made clear in G.O. No. 493, Public, dated 18th May 1925, the idea underlying in paragraph 4 (1) (5) of G.O. No. 76, Public, dated 6th February 1924, that no one may be appointed to clerical post—including that of shorthand writer or typist—whether in a temporary, acting or permanent vacancy unless his name is borne on the Board's list of selected persons for clerical posts and further laid down the procedure to be followed by heads of departments and offices under special circumstances.

For the selection of candidates for clerical posts in the City of Madras, the Commissioner for Government Examinations at the request of the Board held a qualifying examination in July 1925, the subjects of the examination remaining unaltered. One hundred and eighty-four candidates applied and

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one hundred and forty-six fulfilled the conditions of admission to the qualifying examination. One hundred and forty-one actually sat for the examination. The Board interviewed one hundred and four candidates out of one hundred and seven who were selected for interview on the results of the qualifying examination and two Honours graduates who absented themselves from the examination but were subsequently summoned to appear before it with reference to G.O. No. 819, Public, dated 22nd August 1925, which exempted candidates with Honours degree in the Madras University from undergoing the qualifying examination. A list of the sixty-six candidates who were finally declared eligible for appointment was published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

In this connexion, it may be observed that the examination by a competent medical board contemplated in paragraph 4 (1) (5) of G.O. No. 76, Public, dated 6th February 1924, was abolished in view of the fact that, from the beginning of the year under report, the certificates of physical fitness produced by candidates before the Board in connexion with this examination (as well as other selections made by the Board) should be one signed by a Commissioned Medical Officer or a Civil Medical Officer of rank not lower than that of a Civil Surgeon or a District Medical Officer and that it should be scrutinized by the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, as a Member of the Board, before the candidates were allowed to sit for the examination.

(*b*) *Financial clerkships.*—The Board selected two candidates for appointment as temporary clerk in the Compilation Branch of the Finance Secretariat; as special qualifications were required for these appointments, the candidates were not subjected to a qualifying examination.

(*c*) *Typists.*—In view of the frequent demands from heads of departments and offices for typists, a notification was published by the Board in January 1926 inviting applications from eligible candidates. In response to this notification one hundred and forty-eight candidates applied. Of these ninety-nine satisfied the conditions prescribed. The Board interviewed ninety-five candidates who were present out of the ninety-nine required to appear before it and thirty-one were declared eligible for appointment as typists. The list was published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* and copies were circulated to all heads of departments and offices.

(*d*) With the approval of Government, a list of the names of twenty-seven upper division clerks who should have been discharged on 1st April 1926 on account of the reduction in the establishment of the office of the Deputy Accountant-General, Posts and Telegraphs, Madras, was forwarded to all heads of departments and offices with the request that such of them as were considered suitable for any of the vacancies might be provided for in view of their service and experience.

5. (*a*) *Selection of candidates for non-clerical posts.*—Candidates were also selected by the Board for the following non-clerical posts:—

(1) Probationary deputy superintendents of police.

(2) Probationary assistant registrars of co-operative societies.

(3) Weaving superintendent in the Department of Industries.

(4) Probationary deputy tahsildars.

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(5) Probationary sub-registrars, upper grade.

(6) Jailers, deputy jailers and probationary deputy jailers, jail clerks, gate-keepers, chief and reserve head warders and selection grade warders.

The selections in these cases were made after the personal interview but no special qualifying examinations were held.

(*b*) One candidate for the probationary deputy superintendent of police, one for the probationary deputy tahsildar and three for jailers were disqualified by the Board under the rule prohibiting canvassing.

(*c*) At the request of Government, candidates from the Madras Presidency for admission to the qualifying examination conducted by the Government of India in connexion with the Indian Audit and Accounts Service were selected by the Board in April 1925 and a list of the names of persons selected was submitted to the Local Government.

(*d*) The Board kept in view the desirability of giving appointing authorities facilities for making appointments from various communities.

(*e*) The Government were addressed on the subject of the Staff Selection Committees in the mufassal centres contemplated in paragraph 3 of G.O. No. 76, Public, dated 6th February 1924, after obtaining the suggestions of certain Collectors of districts as to the best method of making the selection of candidates locally for certain posts.

6. A statement showing by communities the total number of applicants registered, the number eligible for selection and the number finally selected by the Board for each class of appointments for which the Board made selections during the year is appended (Appendix A).

7. *Financial.*—(*a*) The total amount of fees realized from candidates who appeared for the qualifying examination for clerkships in the city offices was Rs. 880. An expenditure of Rs. 467–4–0 was incurred on account of remuneration to the examiners in connexion with the examination.

(*b*) Excluding remuneration to the examiners the total expenditure on account of the Board and its establishment during the financial year under report was Rs. 3,383–12–0 as shown in the statement appended (Appendix B).

APPENDIX A.

Statement showing the total number of candidates registered, declared eligible and selected by the Staff Selection Board at the various selections during 1925–26.

Number.	Appointments.	Number registered.							Number of eligible applicants.							Number finally selected by the Staff Selection Board.						
		Non-Brahmans.	Muhammadans.	Brahmans.	Christians.	Eurasians and Anglo-Indians.	Depressed classes and others.	Total.	Non-Brahmans.	Muhammadans.	Brahmans.	Christians.	Eurasians and Anglo-Indians.	Depressed classes and others.	Total.	Non-Brahmans.	Muhammadans.	Brahmans.	Christians.	Eurasians and Anglo-Indians.	Depressed classes and others.	Total.
1	Probationary Deputy Superintendents of Police.	79	18	144	27	8	8	284	24	8	55	3	1	4	95	4	2	2	1	..	1	10
2	Indian Audit and Accounts Service ..	7	..	48	2	..	2	59	6	..	46	2	..	2	56	..	..	8	1	..	1	10
3	Financial Clerkships	5	..	29	1	..	1	36	3	..	19	1	..	..	23	..	..	2	..	..	..	2
4	Probationary Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies.	125	14	154	41	2	5	341	42	5	60	21	2	4	134	8	4	4	2	..	2	20
5	Clerical* Staffs in Government Offices in the City of Madras.	60	5	105	13	1	..	184	40	4	52	12	1	..	109	27	3	27	8	1	..	66
6	Weaving Superintendent in the Department of Industries.	3	1	4	2	..	..	10	2	1	3	1	..	..	7	1	1	2	1	..	..	5
7	Probationary Deputy Tahsildars	46	13	41	17	..	6	123	33	10	37	16	..	4	100	4	2	2	1	..	1	10
8	Probationary Sub-Registrars, Upper Grade.	68	13	102	26	1	4	214	57	9	75	18	1	4	164	4	2	2	1	..	1	10
9	Jailers, Deputy Jailers, Probationary Deputy Jailers.	117	43	107	54	53	18	392	66	26	60	24	8	11	195	8	4	4	2	2	2	22
10	Jail clerks	13	1	13	3	1	1	32	4	..	5	1	..	..	10	..	..	2	..	..	..	2
11	Gate-keepers	8	1	1	1	2	..	13	None were eligible.							None were selected.						
12	Chief and Reserve Head Warders and Selection Grade Warders.	6	1	1	2	12	..	22	7	..	..	3	9	..	19	..	..	..	2	4	..	6
13	Typists	27	..	111	6	1	3	148	17	..	79	1	..	2	99	4	..	26	..	..	1	31

* In the case of candidates for clerical appointments in the City of Madras, the figures under the head 'Number of eligible applicants' show the number of candidates selected for personal interview on the results of the examination in General Knowledge, Precis-writing and English Composition.

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APPENDIX B.

Statement showing the amount of expenditure incurred by the Staff Selection Board during 1925-26.

Major head and sub-head.	Charges. RS.	A.	P.
Pay and allowances of Establishment ...	1,389	15	0
Allowances—			
Travelling allowances paid to non-official members of the Board ...	1,290	5	0
Contingencies—			
(*a*) Service postage	150	0	0
(*b*) Other contingencies	553	8	0
Total ...	3,383	12	0
	or 3,384		

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 179 asked by Mr. A. B. Shetty at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 1st March 1927, page 52 supra.]

I

G.O. Mis. No. 1472, Development, dated 12th October 1926.

Read—the following papers :—

(i)

From the Acting Director of Public Instruction, to the Secretary to Government, Law Department, R.O.C. No. 1197-B/25, dated 17th August 1925.

(ii)

From the Acting Director of Public Instruction, to the Secretary to Government, Law Department, R.C. No. 497-B/25, dated 27th August 1925.

(iii)

From the Commissioner of Labour, to the Secretary to Government, Law (General) Department, No. D.C. 2802/25, dated 9th January 1926.

(iv)

From the Director of Industries, No. 166-C/26, dated 1st April 1926.

From the Director of Fisheries, D. Dis. No. 428-C/26, dated 16th April 1926.

(v)

From the Director of Agriculture, R.O.C. No. D-274/26, dated 23rd July 1926.

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(vi)

From the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, B. No. 684/26, dated 28th July 1926.

Order—Mis. No. 1472, *Development, dated* 12*th October* 1926.

The papers read above relate to a scheme of adult education for the depressed classes in South Kanara district, forwarded by the Depressed Classes Mission, Mangalore, and a similar scheme for Malabar drawn by the Devadhar Malabar Reconstruction Trust. The former scheme proposes to start continuation schools for adults adapted to the conditions in which the people live and work, the scheme for Malabar contemplates practical general education combined with instruction with a view to the betterment of the economic condition of the people as also the fostering of civic virtues in them and includes the opening of night schools and starting of co-operative societies. The Director of Public Instruction was requested by the promoters of the schemes to sanction liberal grants to enable them to give effect to them. The Director of Public Instruction has submitted the commuuications to Government.

2. The Government have consulted all the heads of departments concerned and have obtained their views in the matter. They observe that the schemes do not contain sufficiently definite proposals or suggestions for action. The Government are in entire sympathy with the objects of the scheme, but they regret that nothing substantial can be done at present until definite suggestions are made. There is no system of grant-in-aid administered by the Agricultural, Fisheries and Co-operative departments. The help which the several departments will render will be dealt with below.

3. The scheme as outlined by the Mission authorities does not come within the purview of the Madras Elementary Education Act, 1920, and the Government agree with the Director of Public Instruction that the District Educational Council cannot be asked to make any grants for the purpose.

4. The Government understand that it is the intention of the Trust to start a demonstration plot to try different crops and improved methods recommended by the Agricultural department, and that they expect the department to help the Trust with the services of a demonstrator, a maistri, implements and an annual grant of Rs. 100 for the purpose. The Trust may be informed that the Director of Agriculture will arrange to run the plot if the Trust will place at his disposal sufficient land for the purpose and provide the necessary labour. The department will, however, arrange to supply lantern slides and copies of the publications issued by them.

5. On the co-operative side, the Co-operative department will help the Trust by doing preliminary propaganda work as far as possible. To develop the thrift side of the movement, however, the Government consider that the Trust should proceed on the lines of the home-safe deposit system and also try to enforce thrift in weavers' societies and in other societies composed of people engaged in cottage industries by the regular collection of a definite proportion of their wages or profits.

6. The Industries department will be prepared to assist the Trust in working out any scheme for instruction in rural industries and will also be prepared to lend the services of a subordinate for a short period to assist or stimulate local effort in organizing home industries, for instance, weaving.

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The Trust could advantageously get into touch with the work carried on at Ariakode by the Young Men's Christian Association as the officer in charge of that work would be in a position to assist it with advice in the light of the experience gained by him of the local conditions at Ariakode and of the attempts made there to help the local Mappillas to improve their economic position.

7. The Director of Public Instruction is requested to communicate the substance of the above orders to the bodies concerned.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Development)

V. PANDRANG ROW,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
,, Director of Agriculture.
,, Registrar of Co-operative Societies.
,, Director of Industries.
,, Director of Fisheries.
,, Commissioner of Labour.
,, Law (General) Department.
,, Public Works and Labour Department.

II

Copy of letter, dated 7th August 1925, from the Honorary Joint Secretary, Depressed Classes Mission, Kodialbail, Mangalore, to the Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

I have the honour to append a short note on a scheme of adult education in connexion with the activities of the Depressed Classes Mission, Mangalore, and request that you may be pleased to sanction liberal grants for enabling us to put the same into operation at once.

I also request that the application on the subject submitted previously may be cancelled.

A scheme of adult education for the submerged classes.

Mere Elementary Education that is now availed of by a few Adi-Dravidas and other submerged classes people in the public schools started by the Labour department and those maintained by the Depressed Classes Mission, does not do much good to these communities in bettering their social or economic conditions. After three years of schooling a large number of them go to work as labourers and sink back into ignorance and their old ways of life. So continuation schools with adult education, adapted to the conditions in which they live and work will be very useful. From the experience of the Servants of India Society's experiments in rural areas in Malabar it seems that the adult education scheme of the Bombay Central Co-operative Institute will serve as an excellent basis. A copy of the scheme as modified for use in Malabar is enclosed as also a copy of the first annual report in which the work is described under the heading 'People's Club' for perusal. It is intended to start the experiment in the adjacent 'Colonies' in Bijjai and Derebail belonging to the Depressed Classes Mission where about 50 to 60 families are living and so the work will also partake some of the features of a settlement the value of which in educating and ameliorating the condition of submerged classes is being widely recognized and encouraged in all the Western countries. Our idea is, if possible, that the chief worker in this

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department will be in as much intimate touch with the people as possible. The lantern lectures and talks may be held at some of the other "Adi-Dravida colonies" in and about Mangalore. The night schools which are aided by the District Educational Council serve but to a very limited extent the cause of educating and enlightening the submerged classes *en masse.* Very few attend them and after the hard day's work they find it difficult to benefit by the night schools. The scheme of adult education as proposed to be undertaken will be attractive, practical and useful to them.

The appended list gives the estimated cost of recurring and non-recurring for the working of the scheme. The man in charge of the work has to be efficient, able, possess imagination, receptivity of knowledge and power of communicating the same to the people. So at least a graduate with all these necessary qualifications is necessary. The other needs are a magic lantern with slides and a few books, charts, etc.

List of expenditure.

Recurring and non-recurring of adult education scheme for Depressed Classes Mission—

Non-recurring—

	RS.
(1) Magic lantern with sets of slides	750
(2) Initial outlay on books and periodicals ...	50
Total ...	800

Recurring—

(1) General supervisor at Rs. 60 per mensem ...	720
(2) Rent for two buildings at Rs. 10 each	240
(3) Cost of working the magic lantern at Rs. 15 per mensem.	180
(4) Books and periodicals at Rs. 5 per mensem ...	60
(5) Miscellaneous at Rs. 5 per mensem	60
Total ...	1,260

III

THE DEVADHAR MALABAR RECONSTRUCTION TRUST, CALICUT.

A scheme of rural adult education for Malabar.

The places where the experiment has been carried on are Tanur Nagaram, Kattilangadi and Puthantheruv, all lying within a circle of six square miles. The first-mentioned place is mostly Mappilla in its population, an ancient sea-town now fallen into a state of village conditions, fishing and petty trade being the main occupation. The other two places are occupied mainly by Hindu weavers, once prosperous and influential as existing remnants of their houses and temples testify, but now dragging on a precarious existence at their craft which is practised in primitive style. Surrounding them are the agricultural portions of the villages. All these places had suffered heavily during the Mappilla rebellion in 1921, and so were selected for the experiment at the advice of the Government and of the public.

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2. The scheme of adult education tried in these three places is based on the adult education scheme of the Central Co-operative Institute of Bombay, adapted for local conditions. The scheme includes practical general education combined with instruction and help for the betterment of the economic condition of the people as also of fostering civic virtues in them. Attention is kindly requested to 'Scheme of work' appended, as also to the copies of the two annual reports wherein a complete idea of how the scheme works in practice may be obtained.

3. There are night schools started by the Trust in all the three villages where the 3 R's are taught and in addition general education is imparted as a preparation for the People's Clubs as the classes for adult education are called. The results of this system, we are glad and thankful to say, are very encouraging. The villagers evince great interest to listen to readings from newspapers and books (some actually have learnt to read them) while all attend the lantern lectures and general talks. The membership of the Co-operative societies in the villages, started after much propaganda as a part of the adult education scheme, is much prized, while attending the Taluk and District Conferences is considered as a great honour and opportunity. These visits are also utilized as educational excursions, as, for example, in Cannanore the weavers from the villages learnt much from seeing all the latest appliances for weaving as they were exhibited at the Government Textile Superintendent's office. The change in the lives of the villagers can be appreciated by those who have seen them two years ago and now. Villagers in the neighbourhood have been pressing us to open similar activities amongst them but for want of men and funds we have been content only with occasional visits and arranging of demonstrations. Recently arrangements have been made to open a people's club at Meenadathu, a village four miles to the south-east.

4. A stage has now been reached in our experiment when we can confidently say that this kind of work is well suited for our rural areas, that it must be made more efficient than it was hitherto and also enlarge its scope so as to include, for the present, a few more villages like Keraladeeswarapuram, Thanalam and Ozhur within its orbit of usefulness by frequent lantern lectures and talks. Officers of Educational, Co-operative, Agricultural, Industries, Health and Police departments testify to the marked improvement in the general appearance and tone of life in the villages where the experiment has been carried on intensively. The funds at our disposal are too meagre to make the work more efficient as also spread its usefulness over a wider area. Public contributions are an uncertain item and dependence upon them hampers our activities considerably. The educational bodies in the district find themselves embarrassed in dealing with new experiments like ours as perhaps their initiative is curtailed by the scope of the enactments to which they owe their beings and are circumscribed by rules in their functions. The result is that with all the goodwill of the District Educational Council the grant it could give us was very poor, being calculated on the basis that our schools are pure elementary schools which represent but a very minor and insignificant part of our activities in the direction of adult education. The district and local boards plead lack of funds. So the scheme deserves to be encouraged and supported liberally by the Education department. A list of expenditure of recurring and non-recurring is given below with explanations wherever necessary.

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List of expenditure—Recurring and Non-recurring.

	RS.
Recurring—	
(1) Rent for four sheds to be specially constructed in suitable places in the villages where people of all castes can assemble at Rs. 10 per mensem.	480
(2) Salary of a graduate-worker to deliver lantern lectures, talks and generally supervise the whole work on the spot, i.e., in three or four villages at Rs. 60 per mensem.	720
(3) Expense for hire of magic lantern slides and working of the magic lantern at Rs. 12 per mensem.	144
(4) A servant to carry magic lantern and for general purposes at Rs. 10 per mensem.	120
(5) Newspapers and magazines and additions to village libraries at Rs. 5 per mensem.	60
(6) Contingencies, lamp, etc., for four villages at Rs. 25 per mensem.	300
Total ...	1,824
Non-recurring—	
(1) A cycle for the worker to go round at least two villages in an evening.	150
(2) Lantern slides. Hiring them always is not very satisfactory arrangement. We have got a lantern and a few sets of slides should be in stock.	600
(3) Maps, charts, pictures and other appliances ...	150
Total ...	900

M. S. Madhava Rau,
Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

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Appendix III

(Vide "Communications to the Council" at page supra.)

List of posts on Rs. 500 per mensem and above created during the quarter ending December 1926.

A.—PERMANENT.

Department and designation of the post. (1)	Pay per mensem. (2)	Date of creation. (3)	Remarks. (4)

Nil.

B.—TEMPORARY.

(i) Extensions of previous sanctions.

Department and designation of the post. (1)	Pay per mensem. (2)	Period of tenure. (3)	Remarks. (4)
	RS.		
	General Administration.		
Law Department—			
Assistant Secretary to Government, Law Department.	500	From 8th November 1926 to 23rd December 1926.	For completing the work connected with the general elections to the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly.
Revenue Department—			
Collector	1,600 per mensem up to 12th October 1927 and Rs. 1,700 per mensem thereafter.	For one year from 2nd November 1926.	Originally created for one year from 2nd November 1925 in connexion with the land acquisition work for the Cauvery (Mettur) Project.
	Administration of Justice.		
Law Department—			
Additional Sub-Judge, Chingleput.	650	From 27th October 1926 up to 31st January 1927.	....
Temporary Sub-Judge, Cuddapah.	650	From 24th December 1926 up to the commencement of the summer recess for 1927.	....

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B.—TEMPORARY—*cont.*

(i) Extensions of previous sanctions—*cont.*

Department and designation of the post. (1)	Pay per mensem. (2) RS.	Period of tenure. (3)	Remarks (4)
Administration of Justice—cont.			
Law Department—cont.			
Additional Sub-Judge, Trichinopoly.	650	For one year from 24th December 1926.	....
Additional Sub-Judge, Nellore.	650	From December 1926 up to end of March 1927.	....
Civil Works.			
Public Works and Labour Department—			
Executive Engineer for the Special Irrigation Division, Trichinopoly.	625—1,375	From November 1926 to 31st July 1927.	Originally sanctioned from November 1924 to 31st March 1926 and extended up to November 1926.
Electrical Assistant to the Chief Engineer (Hydro-electric Development).	625	For four months from 1st December 1926.	Originally sanctioned from 4th January 1926 to 31st March 1926 and extended thereafter from time to time.
Special Officer for the investigation of the Upper Bhavani Project.	1,600	For three months from 25th December 1926.	Originally sanctioned for three months from 25th September 1926.

(ii) Temporary posts newly created.

Department and designation of the post. (1)	Pay per mensem. (2)	Period of tenure. (3)	Remarks (4)
General Administration.			
Finance Department—			
Assistant Secretary to Government, Finance Department.	500—50—800	For six months from 1st October 1926.	Post created as usual for work relating to the preparation of the Budget estimates for the ensuing year.

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B.—TEMPORARY—*cont.*

(ii) TEMPORARY POSTS NEWLY CREATED—*cont.*

Department and designation of the post. (1)	Pay per mensem. (2)	Period of tenure. (3)	Remarks. (4)
		General Administration—cont.	
Chief Secretariat—	RS.		
Officer on special duty in the Chief Secretariat.	1,100	For three months from 23rd October 1926.	To write the Presidency Administration Report for 1925–26.
Development Department—			
Secretary to Government, Development Department.	2,600	From 30th October 1926 to 11th November 1926.	M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur T. Raghavayya Pantulu, C.S.I., was put on special duty in the Development Secretariat for about a fortnight to enable him to study records in preparation for his work on the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India.
		Administration of Justice.	
Law Department—			
Additional Sub-Judge, Ellore.	650	For one year from 1st October 1926.	....
Additional Sub-Judge, Guntur.	650	For six months from 1st October 1926.	....
Second Additional Sub-Judge, Coimbatore.	650	For six months from November 1926.	....
Temporary Sub-Judge, Kurnool.	650	For six months.	....
Additional Sub-Judge, Tanjore.	650	For one year.	....
		Jails.	
Law Department—			
Special Officer for the reprint of the Madras Jail Manual.	500	For one and half months from the date Mr. Snow takes up the work.	Mr. Snow, a retired Jail Superintendent, was appointed for the purpose. The pay of Rs. 500 is in addition to his pension.

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Appendix IV.

(Vide "Communications to the Council" at page 60 supra.)

Statement of resolutions passed by the Madras Legislative Council during the last session and the action taken thereon by the Government.

Serial number and subject of resolution.	When passed by the Council.	Nature of action taken by Government.
(1) Suspension of the scheme of colonizing the Andamans with Mappillas.	25th August 1925 ..	The Government of India sent to the Andamans a deputation consisting of the following gentlemen to see for themselves the conditions in which the Mappilla settlers lived there :— (1) Muhammad Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, M.L.A. (2) Syed Murtaza Sahib Bahadur, M.L.A. (3) Mir Abbas Ali Sahib Bahadur, M.A., LL.B., M.L.C. (4) Dr. K. D. Mugaseth, L.M.S. Pending their report the transfer of long term Mappilla prisoners confined in the jails of this Presidency and of Mappilla women and children to the Andamans was stopped. The Government of India have since issued a resolution on the subject—Resolution No. F. 188/24, Jails, dated 4th October 1926.
(2) Declaration of Maundy Thursday as a partial holiday for Roman Catholics and penultimate Saturday of every month to be a holiday for the Judicial Department in the mufassal.	Do.	The Government in the Law (General) Department issued an order No. 3327, dated 3rd November 1925, accepting the resolution.
(3) The appointment of a Committee to investigate the problem of unemployment in this Presidency.	Do.	In pursuance of the Resolution a Committee was appointed in G.O. No. 330, Law (General), dated 4th February 1926. The Committee has not yet submitted its report. The report is being drafted.
(4) Ellore to be made the District Headquarters of the West Godavari district.	15th December 1925.	Ellore has been fixed as the District Headquarters.
(5) Reduction of tree-tax ..	Do.	The reduction, not being justifiable in the public interests, was not made.
(6) Total prohibition to be attained in a period of twenty years.	10th February 1926.	The Government have referred to the Finance Committee the question of the possibility of securing adequate new sources of revenue to make up for the loss of revenue which would result from a policy of total prohibition.
(7) That no shops for selling toddy, arrack or beer should be located in or within two furlongs from cheris or other localities inhabited by members of the depressed classes or factories.	Do.	The Government have issued orders that the principle underlying the resolution should be observed as far as possible and have directed that the standing orders should be suitably amended.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Council.

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APPENDIX V

(Vide "Communications to the Council" at page 60 supra.)

CAUVERY (METTUR) PROJECT–PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1925-26.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

In view of the magnitude of the Cauvery (Mettur) Project, the Government consider it advisable to keep the Finance Committee and the Legislative Council informed every year of the progress made in the previous official year in the operations connected with the project. The Chief Engineer's review below which covers the progress made in the official year 1925-26 was circulated to the Members of the Finance Committee on the 10th February 1927. The papers are placed on the table for the information of the Members of the Legislative Council.

G. T. BOAG—8-2-27.

Chief Engineer's Report, dated 1*st September* 1926—
Cauvery (*Mettur*) *Project.*

1. *Head Works.*—During the year under review preliminary and preparatory works in connexion with the project were in progress, such as the construction of a road from Erode to Mettur, arrangements for construction of buildings for providing accommodation for the staff, a bridge over the Cauvery below dam site, collection of sand, investigation of dam lines, and the coffer-dam works, etc. As soon as the Special Superintending Engineer for the project took charge of the circle, he went on a tour to large irrigation works in progress in Northern India, such as the Lloyd Barrage, the Sutlej Valley pro ect, the Nizam Sagar dam works, etc. He also visited the Bombay Development Department, and machinery and tools and plant worth about a lakh and odd were purchased for the project, such as Sentinel steam waggons, steam road rollers, tramway plant, etc.

2. The first necessity was a good road capable of carrying heavy plant and machinery at all times, as the dam site is at a distance of 35 miles from the nearest railway station. A passable road was rapidly made by clearing vegetation, filling up erosions, widening narrow passages, excavating side drains, etc., and steps were taken to convert the road into a first class one capable of carrying heavy traffic such as plant and machinery. An estimate for a 42-feet road with 14 feet metalled portion was prepared and sanctioned and small lengths of road were started and completed during the year.

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3. *Buildings.*—The next important item of work was the provision of accommodation for the staff at headworks. Temporary huts were put up at first. The land required for pucca buildings was acquired and handed over in November 1925, and the work was started departmentally for want of suitable contractors. Earthwork and foundations for three Executive Engineers' quarters were in progress by the end of March. One store shed was erected and another was in good progress.

4. *Cauvery bridge.*—Another preliminary item of work was the Cauvery bridge below dam site. The site had to be changed owing to the change of dam site and work at the new site was started and excavation for foundations was going on by the end of March 1926.

5. *Collection of sand.*—Contrary to expectations large deposits of sand in the bed of the Cauvery river were found quite suitable for use on the dam works. About 103,286 cubic feet was collected before the end of the year. Arrangements are under way to collect all the sand that will be required for the dam in two or three years and it is hoped that this will effect a saving of about 20 lakhs.

6. *Collection and test of materials.*—Investigation of lime stone deposits available in the vicinity and collection of samples of lime available in various quarries were begun. The lime stone quarries in the neighbourhood of the dam site were found to contain very little lime, with a heavy overburden of earth, and hence the full quantity required for the dam had to be sought further afield. The Assistant Director of the Geological Survey of India inspected the site for the dam and the various lime stone quarries and found a few good quarries around Sankaridrug, about 40 miles from the site of dam. But the question whether lime or cement should be used in the construction of the dam with reference to their relative cost is not yet decided, as it has not yet been ascertained whether sufficient quantities of lime can be found within a reasonable distance from the dam.

7. *Investigation of the dam line.*—Mr. Stoney, when Superintending Engineer, considered that another line about a mile north of the sanctioned dam line would be more advantageous, as it affords better surplusing facilities for such floods as that of 1924, and trial borings were made with calyx drills to locate the depth of rock under ground. Dr. Smeeth, lately of the Mysore Geological Department, was invited by the local Government to offer his remarks on the new dam line. Both Dr. Smeeth and Mr. Vinayak Rao of the Geological Survey of India, who came to inspect the lime stone quarries, confirmed the opinion of Mr. Stoney that the second line would be more advantageous than the first. Trial borings were continued along the new dam line.

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8. *Coffer dam.*—During the inspection by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, in March 1926, it was ordered that the coffer dam should be put up on the right half of the bed of the river. Preliminary works were immediately started, but the pumps ordered for the clearance of the soil and sub-soil not having been received, much progress could not be made. However, the north and south side walls were opened out and foundations laid and walls built at the ends close to the bank.

9. *Water-supply.*—The design for permanent water-supply was drawn up and the estimate is under preparation. Meanwhile the need for water-supply for the staff already stationed at Mettur being pressing, temporary arrangements were made by pumping from a good protected well after bacteriological examination. The bulk of the pipes were laid during the year and the other arrangements have since been completed. Revised surveys and levels were taken for the permanent water-supply scheme with reference to the altered dam site.

10. *Sanitation, medical aid, etc.*—The local fund dispensary at Nerinjipet having been closed, there was no medical aid at hand. A portion of the church buildings now occupied by the Stores and Tests Division office was set apart for the hospital. Camps and buildings were started late in the year, and the staff at Mettur were housed in village huts acquired along with the site. Temporary sanitary arrangements, such as construction of movable trench latrines, etc., were made. Public street lights were also provided for the existing temporary huts.

11. *Canal system.*—The main work done during the year was the alignment of canals and channels and demarcating the canals so aligned after submitting preliminary notifications for the lands required. About 51 miles of the Grand Anicut canal and 106½ miles of branch canals and distributaries were aligned during the year.

12. Construction work on some of the inspection bungalows along the Grand Anicut canal and Vadavar system was started during the year. About two lakhs of bricks and 132 units of concrete metal required for some of the masonry works were also collected during the year.

13. For the acquisition of land required for the project works, a Collector was placed on special duty and eight Deputy Collectors were also appointed during the course of the year. The total area acquired for the headworks was 811 acres including 207 houses.

14. *General.*—Generally speaking, progress was slow owing to the numerous initial difficulties encountered and the various modifications of plan found necessary.

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APPENDICES.

I

Abstract statement of expenditure by Minor Heads to accompany the special progress report on the Cauvery (Mettur) Project for the financial year 1925–26.

Minor heads. (1)	Amount of estimate. (2)	Actual outlay to end of 1924-25. (3)	Budget estimate for 1925-26. (4)	Revised estimate for 1925-26. (5)	Actual expenditure for 1925-26. (6)
	IN LAKHS OF RUPEES.	IN LAKHS OF RUPEES.	IN LAKHS OF RUPEES.	IN LAKHS OF RUPEES.	IN LAKHS OF RUPEES.
I. Works—					
(1) Land ...	73·57	...	1·33	2·77	1·90
(2) Other works ...	378·86	0·14	2·50	2·64	1·78
(3) Special tools and plant.	79·83	...	...	2·20	2·97
Total, I. Works ...	532·26	0·14	3·83	7·61	6·65
II. Establishment ...	56·24	...	* 0·97	1·61	1·50
III. Tools and plant (Ordinary).	8·96	...	0·87	...	0·22
IV. Suspense	1·42	...	...	...	0·09
V. *Deduct* receipts on capital account.	— 7·50	...	...	...	— 0·02
Total, Direct charges ...	591·38	0·14	5·67	9·22	8·44

* *Pro rata* figure.

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II

Detailed statement of expenditure by Minor Heads to accompany the special progress report on the Cauvery (Mettur) Project for the financial year 1925–26.

Minor, sub and detailed heads. (1)	Amount of estimate. (2)	Actual outlay to end of 1924-25. (3)	Budget estimate for 1925-26. (4)	Revised estimate for 1925-26. (5)	Actual expenditure for 1925-26. (6)
I. WORKS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Head works—					
A. Preliminary expenses.	2,50,000	* 13,665	...	15,000	14,354
B. Land (including land acquisition establishment).	26,59,000	...	1,33,000	2,62,100	1,73,794
C. Works	2,19,73,600	...	2,50,000	65,000	2,509
K. Buildings ...	11,28,800	...	...	50,000	27,357
O. Miscellaneous—					
(i) Communication.	} 13,55,600	{ ...	...	98,800	1,00,200
(ii) Sanitation ...		...	...	500	2,664
P. Maintenance ...	2,16,000	...	...	...	10
Main canals and branches (canal system)—					
A. Preliminary expenses.	1,17,300	...	...	...	1,843
B. Land (including land acquisition establishment).	18,20,900	...	...	15,000	16,260
D. Regulators ...	33,900	...	...	...	26
F. Cross drainage works.	29,04,800	...	...	} 34,500	{ 2,392
K. Buildings ...	3,50,000	...	...		6,012
O. Miscellaneous ...	1,89,700	...	..		19,326
Distributaries (canal system)—					
A. Preliminary expenses.	1,25,450	...	...	...	1,120
Special tools and plant—					
Head works	63,55,000	...	...	2,20,000	2,78,208
Canal system ...	16,28,000	...	...	...	19,027
Total, I. Works ...	...	13,665	3,83,000	7,60,900	6,65,102

* This was incurred in 1924–25 under '15' pending sanction to the project under '55'.

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Detailed statement of expenditure by Minor Heads to accompany the special progress report on the Cauvery (Mettur) Project for the financial year 1925–26—cont.

Minor, sub and detailed heads. (1)	Amount of estimate. (2)	Actual outlay to end of 1924-25. (3)	Budget estimate for 1925-26. (4)	Revised estimate for 1925-26. (5)	Actual expenditure for 1925-26. (6)
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
II. Establishment—					
Head works ...	...	...	...	1,15,100	1,08,350
Canal system ...	...	...	* 97,000	37,300	36,559
Other departments.	...	...	...	9,200	4,960
Total, Establishment ...	...	...	* 97,000	1,61,600	1,49,869
III. Tools and plant (ordinary)—					
Head works ...	5,49,000	...	87,500	...	12,125
Canal system ...	3,47,000	...	...	...	9,782
Total, Tools and plant ...	...	...	87,500	...	21,907
IV. Suspense—					
Head works ...	75,000	...	...	...	8,533
Canal system ...	...	...	...	...	...
Total, Suspense ...	...	...	...	...	8,533
Deduct—Receipts on capital account—					
Head works ...	...	...	...	...	— 1,582
Canal system ...	...	...	...	...	— 190
Total, Receipts on capital account.	...	...	...	...	— 1,772
Grand total ...	...	13,665	5,67,500	9,22,500	8,43,639

* *Pro rata* figure.

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III

Detailed statement of establishment to accompany the special progress report on the Cauvery (Mettur) Project for the financial year 1925–26.

Minor, sub and detailed heads. (1)	Amount of estimate. (2)	Actual outlay to end of 1924–25. (3)	Budget estimate for 1925–26. (4)	Revised estimate for 1925–26. (5)	Actual expenditure for 1925–26. (6)
				RS.	RS.
Public Works Department—					
Head works--					
Office of the Superintending Engineer.	...	...	...	1,08,100 (for this and the four offices below)	39,243
Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction division.	...	...	...		40,666
Office of the Workshops and Machinery division.	...	...	...		5,973
Office of the Stores and Tests division.	...	...	...		6,755
Office of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.	...	...	...		1,025
English cost of establishment and loss by exchange.	...	...	...	7,000	14,688
Total ...	...	...	...	1,15,100	1,08,350

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Detailed statement of establishment to accompany the special progress report on the Cauvery (Mettur) Project for the financial year 1925–26—cont.

Minor, sub and detailed heads. (1)	Amount of estimate. (2)	Actual outlay to end of 1924–25. (3)	Budget estimate for 1925–26. (4)	Revised estimate for 1925–26. (5)	Actual expenditure for 1925–26. (6)
			RS	RS.	RS.
Other departments—					
Head works—					
Forest department ...	...	...	...	...	2,560
Medical department ...	...	...	...	...	2,400
Total ...	...	...	...	9,200	4,960
Public Works Department—					
Canal system—					
Office of Engineer-in-charge, No. 1 division.	...	...	...	37,300	36,559
Grand total ...	...	...	* 97,000	1,61,600	1,49,869

* *Pro rata* figure.

IV

Note explaining the variations of figures in columns (4), (5) and (6) of Abstract Statement I (Appendix I).

		LAKHS.
		RS.
Cauvery (Mettur) Project—		
Budget estimate for 1925–26	... ...	5·67
Revised estimate ,,	... ...	9·22
Actual expenditure ,,	... ...	8·44
Difference	... ...	— 0·78

Budget Estimate and Revised Estimate for 1925–26.—The year 1925–26 was the first year of construction of the project. The programme of expenditure for the year according to the sanctioned estimate was Rs. 12·56 lakhs, but as the entire organization had not been definitely settled, the budget estimate was fixed at Rs. 5·67 lakhs for want of sufficient data to justify a larger provision. The revised estimate will therefore be taken as the basis for comparison with the actual outlay. The total revised estimate and the final grant for the project were the same although there were variations in the details.

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2. As regards the variations between the revised estimate and the actuals, there is a small saving of Rs. 0·78 lakh and this is spread over several items as shown below :—

	LAKHS. RS.
I Works—(1) Land	— 0·87
(2) Other works	— 0·86
(3) Special Tools and Plant	+ 0·77
II Establishment	— 0·11
III Tools and Plant—Ordinary	+ 0·22
IV Suspense	+ 0·09
V Receipts on Capital Account	— 0·02
Total ...	— 0·78

The variation under each head is explained below separately.

3. *I Works*—(1) Land—

	LAKHS. RS.
Revised estimate	2·77
Actual expenditure	1·90
Difference ...	— 0·87

There was some delay in the posting of Deputy Collectors for acquisition of land. Some of the sanctioned staff was not entertained. There was also delay in the acquisition which was expected to be completed before the close of the year and for which appropriations had been reserved. Anticipating some of these events, the final grant was reduced from Rs. 2·77 lakhs to Rs. 2·30 lakhs. There was a further lapse of Rs. 0·40 lakh, the actual expenditure incurred being Rs. 1·90 lakhs. The lapse was also due in part to the system of accounting in vogue under which land acquisition charges were adjusted through the Public Works remittance accounts. The Accountant-General has since issued instructions with a view to avoid this in future.

(2) Other works—

	LAKHS. RS.
Revised estimate	2·64
Actual expenditure	1·78
Difference ...	— 0·86

After the revised estimate was fixed, part of the appropriation was transferred to other heads. The final grant was Rs. 2·09 lakhs. Thus, the difference between the final grant and the actual expenditure was Rs. 0·31 lakh. The question of the change of dam site was raised and was not finally settled before the year closed. This had the effect of protracting all preliminary works, namely, the Cauvery bridge to be constructed near the dam, and quarters for the staff, etc. The major portion of the expenditure, viz.,

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Rs. 1,00,200, was incurred on roads. The outlay on the road from Erode to Mettur was Rs. 92,000 ; Rs. 3,106 was spent on roads in the head works area and Rs. 2,153 on providing coverings for wells.

	LAKHS. RS.
(3) *Special tools and plant—*	
Revised estimate	2·20
Actual expenditure	2·97
Difference ...	+ 0·77

After the revised estimate was fixed, additional appropriation was sanctioned raising the final grant under the head to three lakhs. The difference between the final grant and actuals was thus only — 0·03 lakh. The lapse was due to the late receipt of certain machines ordered during the year. It was originally proposed to budget for a sum of Rs. 0·87 lakh (the programmed expenditure) under this sub-head, but actually the head III—"Ordinary tools and plant"—was employed, leaving no appropriation under the head "Special tools and plant". On the recommendation of Mr. Stoney, Superintending Engineer, Cauvery (Mettur) circle, who inspected large irrigation works in Northern India during the year, tramway tracks, sentinel and tipping waggons, road roller, cement testers, etc., on sale with the Bombay Development Trust, were purchased. Also calyx drills for dam line works, air compressors, 600 tons of wrought-iron girders for bridges, etc., were locally purchased during the year. This explains the increase in the revised estimate and the actual expenditure. Details of the plant ordered during the year are given in a separate statement (vide Appendix V).

	LAKHS. RS.
4. *II Establishment—*	
Revised estimate	1·61
Actual expenditure	1·50
Difference ..	— 0·11

The original intention was that the charge for the establishment, amounting to Rs. 0·97 lakh, should be provided as usual on the *pro rata* basis. It was subsequently decided that the actual expenditure under this head should be charged to the project and the revised estimate was thereupon fixed at Rs. 1·61 lakhs. Less than the full sanctioned staff was actually employed, which explains the underspending of Rs. 0·11 lakh.

	LAKHS. RS.
5. *III Tools and Plant—Ordinary—*	
Revised estimate	Nil.
Actual expenditure	0·22
Difference ...	+ 0·22

The provision of Rs. 0·87 lakh in the budget estimate was really intended for special tools and plant and as charges under this sub-head are booked under works, the provision was transferred to 'Works.' A provision of Rs. 0·22 lakh however was made to meet actual requirements under 'Ordinary tools and plant' after the revised estimate was fixed.

	LAKH. RS.
6. *IV Suspense—*	
Revised estimate	Nil.
Actual expenditure	0·09
Difference ...	+ 0·09

An expenditure of Rs. 8,533 was incurred on the collection of sand, etc. This was not anticipated when the budget or the revised estimate was framed.

	LAKH. RS.
7. *Receipts on Capital Account—*	
Revised estimate	Nil.
Actual expenditure	— 0·02
Difference ...	— 0·02

The amount is very small and calls for no remark.

V

Statement showing the details of special tools and plant, the local purchase of which was sanctioned in 1925–26.

Name of article.	From whom ordered.	Estimated cost (approximate). RS.
1 Sentinel and tipping waggons, steam-road rollers, cement testers, shearing and punching machines, light railway track, etc.	The Bombay Development Trust.	1,61,700
2. Ten-ton road roller	Marshall & Sons, Madras.	9,900
3. Air compressor units for drilling.	Ingersoll Rand, Ltd., Calcutta.	39,600
4. Six-hundred tons of wrought iron girders for bridges.	South Indian Railway Company, Ltd.	85,000
5. One mile of tramway track and 25 tipping waggons.	Parry & Co., Madras.	11,100
6. Eighty-seven steel roof trusses for workshops.	Laxmiratans, Ltd., Madras.	7,000
7. Three Calyx drills	Ingersoll Rand, Ltd., Calcutta.	40,000

It may be taken that items 1 to 4 have been paid for in 1925–26.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 3rd March 1927.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. President (the hon. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU Garu) in the chair.

PRESENT:

Ramaswami Ayyar, K.C.I.E., The hon. Sir C. P.
Marjoribanks, C.S.I., C.I.E., The hon. Mr. N. E.
Usman Sahib Bahadur, The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad.
Moir, C.S.I., C.I.E., The hon. Mr. T. E.
Subbarayan, The hon. Dr. P.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, The hon. Mr. A.
Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N.
Abbas Ali Khan Bahadur.
Abdul Hye Sahib Bahadur, K.
Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur S. K.
Adinarayana Chettiyar, Mr. T.
Anjaneyulu, Mr. P.
Ari Gowder, Mr. H. B.
Arpudaswami Udayar, Mr. S.
Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.
Bazl-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur, C.I.E., C.B.E., Khan Bahadur Muhammad.
Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu, Mr. P.
Bheemayya, Mr. J.
Boag, Mr. G. T.
Chidambaranatha Mudaliyar, Mr. T. K.
Cotterell, C.I.E., Mr. C. B.
Davis, Mr. J. A.
Dorai Raja, Mr. S. N.
Ellappa Chettiyar, Rao Sahib S.
Ethirajulu Nayudu, Diwan Bahadur P. C.
Gangadhara Siva, Mr. M. V.
Gopala Menon, Mr. C.
Govindaraja Mudaliyar, Mr. C. S.
Guruswami, Rao Sahib L. C.
Hall, O.B.E., Mr. J. F.
Hamid Khan Sahib Bahadur, Abdul
Hampayya, Rai Sahib M.
Harisarvottama Rao, Mr. G.
John, Mr. V. Ch.
Kaleswara Rao, Mr. A.
Karant, Mr. K. R.
Khadir Mohidin Sahib Bahadur, Muhammad.
Koti Reddi, Mr. K.
Krishnan, Mr. K.
Krishnan Nayar, Diwan Bahadur M.
Krishnaswami Nayakar, Mr. K. V.
Kumaraswami Reddiyar, Diwan Bahadur S.
Kuppuswami, Mr. J.
MacDougall, *Kt.*, Sir Alexander.
Madhavan Nayar, Mr. K.
Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur.
Mallayya, Mr. B. S.
Manikkavelu Nayakar, Mr. M. A.
Meera Ravuttar Bahadur, K. P. V. S. Muhammad.
Moidoo Sahib Bahadur, T. M.
Muniswami Nayudu, Rao Bahadur B.
Muniswami Pillai, Mr. V. I.
Muppil Nayar of Kavalappara, Mr.
Muttayya Mudaliyar, Mr. S.
Muthulakshmi Reddi, Dr. (Mrs.).
Muthuranga Mudaliyar, Mr. C. N.
Nagan Gowda, Mr. R.
Nanjappa Bahadur, M.V.O., Subadar-Major S. A.
Narayana Raju, Mr. D.
Narayanan Chettiyar, Mr. Al. Ar.
Narayanan Nambudripad, Rao Bahadur O. M.
Narayanaswami Pillai, Mr. T. M.
Obi Reddi, Mr. C.
Pandrang Rao, Mr. V.
Parasurama Rao Pantulu, Mr. A.
Parthasarathi Ayyangar, Mr. C. R
Patro, *Kt.*, Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.
Premayya, Mr. G. R.
Raja of Panagal, K.C.I.E.
Ramachandra Padayachi, Mr. K.
Ramachandra Reddi, Mr. B.
Ramanath Goenka, Mr.
Ramasomayajulu, Mr. C.
Ratnasabapathi Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur C. S.
Sahajanandam Swami, A. S.
Saldanha, Mr. J. A.
Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, Mr.
Sarabha Reddi, Mr. K.
Satyamurti, Mr. S.
Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Sitarama Reddi, Rao Bahadur K.
Siva Raj, Mr. N.
Siva Rao, Mr. P.
Slater, C.I.E., Mr. S. H.
Smith, Mr. J. Mackenzie.
Soundara Pandia Nadar, Mr. W. P. A.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. R.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. T. C.
Srinivasan, Rao Sahib R.
Subrahmanya Moopanar, Mr. S.
Subrahmanya Pillai, Mr. Chavadi K.
Sundaramurti Pillai, Rao Sahib P. V. S.
Swami, Mr. K. V. R.
Syed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur, Nattam Dubash Kadir Sahib.
Thomas, Mr. Daniel.
Tireman, C.I.E., Mr. H.
Tulasiram, Mr. L. K.
Uppi Sahib Bahadur, K.
Vanavudaiya Goundar, Mr. S. V.
Venkatapati Raju, Mr. P. C.
Venkatarama Ayyar, Mr. K. R.
Venkatarangam Nayudu, Mr. C.
Venkiah, Mr. S.
Wood, Mr. C. E.
Zamindar of Gollapalli.
Zamindar of Kallikota.
Zamindar of Seithur.

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I

NEW MEMBER.

The following Member was sworn in:—

The ZAMINDAR OF KALLIKOTA.

II

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No.* 15 *on the 4th December* 1924.

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The President will call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other Member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a Member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other Member to put supplementary questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS

Excise

Prohibition of the sale of arrack and toddy.

* 198 *Q.*—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of toddy and foreign liquor shops in the taluks in which prohibition of sale of arrack has been introduced at the commencement of the experiment and the years that have elapsed since then;

(*b*) the consumption of toddy and foreign liquor at the beginning of the experiment and now;

(*c*) whether any special report has been received on the working of the experiment; and

(*d*) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place it on the table of the House?

A.—(*a*) The number of toddy shops in the five taluks before the closure of arrack shops was 62 in Shiyali, 99 in Tiruthuraipundi, 90 in Tiruvadanai, 40 in Tenkasi and 43 in Attur. There was one F.L. shop in each of the taluks of Tiruthuraipundi, Tiruvadanai and Tenkasi and none in the Shiyali and Attur taluks. About three years have elapsed since the commencement of the experiment.

(*b*) The Government have no information.

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(c) No special report has been received but the Commissioner has reported on the result of the working of the experiment in connexion with his proposals for the administration of Arrack Revenue for 1927-28.

(d) An extract [a] from the Commissioner's report so far as it relates to the experiment in question is laid on the table of the House.

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—"Sir, with reference to the answer to clause (a) it is said that three years have elapsed since the commencement of the experiment. I wish to know, Sir, the opinion of the hon. the Minister for Excise as to whether the preventive measures adopted all these three years have proved effective and fruitful."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"I think so, Sir."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"May I ask the hon. the Minister, Sir, whether he has got any intention of extending or repeating the experiment after the 1st April 1927?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"The Commissioner's report has been placed on the table, Sir, and it shows that the Government are going to continue the experiment for another period of two years."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Referring to the same report, it will be found, Sir, that as regards the Attur taluk in the Salem district, the experiment has resulted, at least distinctly during one-half of the year, in an increased consumption of foreign liquor. It is a well-known fact, Sir, that foreign liquor is a more deleterious drink than toddy."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Please come to your supplemental question. Hon. Members when they put their supplemental questions are not allowed to make a statement prefacing the supplemental question."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"May I ask the hon. the Minister whether, in repeating the experiment, as he said he was going to do, he would close the foreign liquor shops along with arrack shops . . ."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Arrack shops have been closed, Sir, in the Attur taluk."

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—"In answer to clause (b), the reply is that the Government have no information; but at the same time, the hon. the Minister says that the experiment carried on has been effective and fruitful. We have not been favoured with any data as to the consumption of liquor in those taluks where these experiments have been carried on. Can the hon. the Minister enlighten us on that point?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"The answer has been given with reference to the question of the illicit distillation and the increase in crime. We have no figures for the actual consumption."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"On a reference to the appendix, the hon. the Minister will find that in several places foreign liquor consumption has

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 213-215 infra.

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increased and that toddy consumption has also increased in one or two instances. Does the hon. the Minister propose to close down the foreign liquor shops as well as the toddy shops, so that the experiment may have the full vigour of a complete prohibition ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I think that is a question of future policy, Sir."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" I am asking a straight question, Sir."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" What action the Government propose to take may form the subject matter of a question and Government may answer it or may require notice for answering it; but on the ground that it is a question of policy, I do not think the Members of the Treasury Bench will be entitled to refuse to answer questions."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I am considering the question of prohibiting foreign liquor in the areas in which we have prohibited indigenous liquor."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Regarding foreign liquor, I think customs collected thereon is a Central subject; and if the Minister is officially connected with the subject and if it is a purely local matter, he may answer the question, or he may simply say that he will forward the question to the Government of India for necessary action."

Mr. D. THOMAS :—" May I ask whether in view of the fact that the Tenkasi taluk in the Tinnevelly district adjoins the Travancore territory, the hon. the Minister would try the experiment in some other taluk of the Tinnevelly district ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" We have already started the experiment in the Tenkasi taluk and we have got to face some difficulties. We are trying to overcome those difficulties and we have also decided to continue the experiment there. On the whole, I think the experiments will have better results in the future."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, in the last paragraph of the appendix, it is said that 'the Assistant Commissioner reports that the people in the locality have personally complained to him about the closure of the shops.' May I know what sort of complaints they are and whether they are from the Abkari contractors ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I have no information."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Much will depend on the information, because it is generally the Abkari contractors that complain."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—" In answer to clause (*b*), the reply is 'Government have no information.' If it was the intention of the Government to reduce the consumption of toddy and foreign liquor, was it not the duty of the department concerned to keep an exact account of the consumption and the reduction thereof after the experiment was introduced ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" The talukwar details are not available, but if the hon. Member wishes, I shall try to obtain the information."

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Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"There is some misapprehension, Sir, as to whether the closing of foreign liquor shops is a transferred subject or not. My impression is that I put a question to the late Minister for Excise and he answered that out of six foreign liquor shops he had ordered five to be closed and that only one liquor shop remained. I want to know whether that one has been closed or not."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"The hon. Member is right in saying that we have got the right of refusing licences to foreign liquor shops."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Does that licence for one liquor shop still remain or has it been cancelled or has the shop ceased to exist? The licence was given for a year and by this time it should have lapsed or it should have been renewed."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I know what shop he refers to?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member is requested to state to which particular district the foreign liquor shop refers."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"In these five taluks, there were six foreign liquor shops for the sale of liquor. Out of the six, after repeated questioning and agitation upon my part, five were closed, and one lucky shop remained. I was given to understand that the licence for the sixth shop was only for a year. Now I want to know whether that particular liquor shop has been closed or whether the licence has been cancelled or whether it has been renewed."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"I am unable to answer the question, Sir, for want of details. The question refers to prohibition of arrack and does not refer to foreign liquor."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"May I have an answer to my question, Sir? My question is whether it is the intention of the hon. the Minister to order the closure of foreign liquor shops as well as the toddy shops, so that the goal of total prohibition may be kept in view and so that the experiment may be tried under proper conditions."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"The question of conducting a toddy experiment is under consideration and I am also considering, as I said before, the question of closing the foreign liquor shops."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—"May I know how much loss of revenue has occurred owing to this policy of closing the shops in any one taluk?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"No loss on the whole, Sir. I think the budget estimates show that last year there was an increase of revenue." (Hear, hear.)

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—"May I ask whether it is intended to have these experiments on a larger scale, and if not, why not?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"We can only carry on the experiments in certain limited areas and not on a very large scale, Sir."

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Action taken on the Excise Committee's Report.

*199 *Q.*—Mr. C. Gopala Menon: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state when it is proposed to take action on the lines indicated in the Government Order on the Excise Committee's Report?

A.—Action has already been taken.

Mr. C. Gopala Menon:—"By 'action has already been taken', may I know what was the action taken?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"Action was taken, Sir, by referring the question of possible loss of revenue, etc., to the Finance Committee for consideration; but we have not yet received any reply. The question of constituting licensing boards and advisory committees is also under consideration."

Mr. C. Gopala Menon:—"When was this matter referred to the Finance Committee and has any reply been received as to how the loss of excise revenue should be met, whether by other forms of taxation, or otherwise?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"It was referred to the Finance Committee in October last, and so far we have not received a reply from them."

Mr. S. Satyamurti:—"Sir, as regards the recommendations of the Excise Committee, may I ask the hon. the Minister for Public Health whether the only recommendation in that committee's report was not the re-constitution of these advisory committees and if so, whether any action has been taken by the Government so far, with regard to their very modest proposal of re-constituting the advisory committees and giving them some extra powers, and if no action has so far been taken, why no action has been taken?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"The matter is under consideration."

11-15 a.m. Mr. S. Satyamurti:—"Sir, I should like to have some further light, not the stereotyped bureaucratic answer. I am asking whether the hon. Minister after he assumed charge of his portfolio has applied his mind to the matter, and has come to any conclusion with regard to this very modest proposal of giving some extra powers to the local advisory committees and reconstituting them."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"Sir, the question has been referred and no reply has been received."

Mr. S. Satyamurti:—"May I know, Sir, whether replies are to be received, from whom and who have been addressed on the matter? I am afraid either I have been obscure this morning or I have not been following the hon. Minister. I am asking the hon. Minister whether he has taken the recommendation of the Excise Advisory Committee into consideration to reconstitute the advisory committees and give them extra powers with regard to the location of shops; if so, what he has done, if not, why not?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"As I said, the matter has been referred to the Commissioner for Excise who has been asked to consult the Collectors and submit a report."

Mr. S. Satyamurti:—"May I congratulate the hon. Minister. . . ?"

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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It is not yet time for congratulating the Ministers. The hon. Member will have ample opportunity to do it. He will for the time confine himself to the supplementary question."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I thought I might do it now, Sir. Nevertheless, may I ask the hon. Minister why on the report of the Excise Committee which examined several witnesses and collected all expert opinions and made a definite proposal which the then Government accepted—I speak subject to correction—my hon. Friend below the gangway will be able to correct me (referring to Sir A. P. Patro)—why the hon. the Minister starts again the whole machinery of circumlocution and sends it back to the Collector and the Excise Commissioner ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" There was no unanimity of opinion in the committee that reported and so, I thought it just as well to get the opinion of the Commissioner and the Collectors on the matter as they were not the persons that were responsible for the passing of the Government Order. "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask whether the recommendations were sent to the Commissioner and the Collectors for their opinion because the hon. Minister considered them to be revolutionary or because he considered them to be too modest ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I cannot decide it till I get the reports. It may be that I considered the proposals wanting as I may extend the powers of the committee proposed in the Government Order. I cannot decide it till I get the reports."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask whether the hon. Minister has set any time-limit to the reports being sent, or whether they will take their own time which may mean eternity ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I shall see that the reports are received as soon as possible. "

Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I ask the hon. the Minister for Excise whether he can have unanimity at any time on a matter of this kind involving a large amount of finances for the Government and tell him that if he should wait for unanimity he should wait till Domesday ? "

Medical Administration

Establishment of a hospital at Kannamangalam.

*200 *Q.*—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether the Government intend to establish a hospital at Kannamangalam town or at least a rural dispensary in Kannamangalam ?

A.—Neither course is proposed for the present

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" May I know why neither course is proposed to be adopted ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" We found, on an examination of the finances of the taluk board, that they were not in a flourishing condition and one of the conditions laid down in

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starting rural dispensaries is that the taluk board should be in a position to finance the venture so far as the medicines are concerned. We are therefore asking the taluk board to put their finances in order."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" May I know, Sir, what is the hon. the Minister's idea of 'for the present'?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" It means till the taluk board sends a satisfactory reply."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Is it the Taluk Board of Polur, Sir?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" No, Sir. It is the Vellore Taluk Board."

Mr. D. THOMAS :—" Has there been any inspection of rural hospitals up till now?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I should like to have notice."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—"I heard the hon. Minister say: till the receipt of a reply from the taluk board. May I know what is the nature of the reply which he expects from the taluk board?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I have already explained it, Sir."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" May I take it, Sir, that it is as to the financial aspect of the taluk board?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" In that case, if unfortunately the financial aspect of the taluk board does not prove satisfactory, is it the intention of the Government not to give any dispensary for the poor people in that locality?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" It does not follow, Sir."

Rural dispensaries in the Presidency.

* 201 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of rural dispensaries started in the Presidency during 1925–26 and 1926–27;

(*b*) what defects, if any, exist in the working of the system; and

(*c*) whether the question of allowing local bodies to open ayurvedic dispensaries under the new "Rural Medical Scheme" has been considered and decided?

A.—(*a*) The number of dispensaries actually opened under the scheme in the years 1925–26 and 1926–27 is 107 and 46 respectively.

(*b*) So far no defects have been specifically brought to the notice of the Government. The District Medical Officers are being instructed to inspect these dispensaries periodically and to submit reports of their inspections to the Surgeon-General,

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(c) Yes. The Government have decided that for the present the medical practitioners to be assisted with subsidies under the scheme should be medical graduates or L.M.P.'s.

Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi :—" May I know why only 46 dispensaries have been opened in 1926–27 ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" That depends upon the action taken by the district boards and taluk boards."

Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi :—" May I know how many were sanctioned during that year ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" Three hundred and nine, Sir, up to date."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" In regard to (c) of the answer, may I know why the hon. Minister restricts for the present subsidies only to medical graduates or L.M.P.'s and does not extend them to ayurvedic doctors ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" That is because we are not in a position to determine qualified and accredited practitioners in the Indian systems of medicine. The first set of graduates from the Indian School of Medicine will not be available till the end of 1928."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know, Sir, if taluk boards are not now running ayurvedic dispensaries under the authority of the Government ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" Yes, Sir. If they can find the whole of the funds themselves."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" If they are running them with competency in the opinion of the Government, how does it happen that ayurvedic doctors are not competent to run rural dispensaries ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" Government do not trouble themselves whether the men are competent or not except the taluk boards who take the necessary responsibility."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" Then, why are the Government troubling themselves in regard to the rural areas where the taluk and district boards have equal powers of control and have equal rights of administration ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" Government have got to provide grants and they have got to look and satisfy themselves."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" But do they not provide general grants to the taluk boards for utilization by the taluk boards themselves ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" Not in this matter."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" Why not, Sir ? "

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Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi :—" May I ask, Sir, whether the Government are aware that certain taluk boards are providing greater funds for running these dispensaries because they find that the contributions given by the Government are not sufficient ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" I have no information, Sir."

Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu :—" May I know why only so few dispensaries as 46 have been opened in 1926-27 ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" Up to September 1926, Sir, 259 rural dispensaries have been actually opened."

Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu :—" May I know whether the taluk boards which have not opened dispensaries in this year will be allowed to open them in the next ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" Yes, Sir."

Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu :—" I know that, Sir. My question is about the dispensaries provided for in this year."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" We have provided for a total number of 125 dispensaries and I believe the total is somewhere about 380."

Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi :—" May I know whether the Government have called for information from the several taluk boards about the working of the ayurvedic dispensaries in their areas ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" No, Sir."

Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi :—" Without calling for any such information, am I to understand that the Government have come to this conclusion that ayurvedic doctors cannot now be entertained and that subsidies should be confined to medical graduates and L.M.P.'s ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" As I already said, the Government have found that they are not in a position to find out and satisfy themselves about qualified ayurvedic and unani doctors and they have therefore decided to confine themselves to those who are medical graduates."

Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi :—" Are there any qualifications fixed for ayurvedic and unani doctors by the Government ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" The scheme does not apply to them at all, Sir."

Rao Bahadur K. Sitarama Reddi :—" May I know, Sir, whether out of the total number of dispensaries for which provision is made in the budget leaving aside the 46 dispensaries that have been opened, the rest can be opened in the course of the next year ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" Two hundred and fifty-nine have been already opened, Sir."

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Rao Bahadur K. SITARAMA REDDI :—" When was the answer received, Sir? For, it says 46 were opened in the last year and with 107 of the previous year the total comes to 153. I think there is some mistake somewhere."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" No, Sir. There were many opened in the years previous."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" May I know if the Government have considered the advisability of enjoining on all rural dispensary men that they should undergo some course of training in the ayurvedic system of medicine also by way of adding to their usefulness to the rural people?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" They do not propose doing it."

Extension of the Government Women and Children's Hospital at Mangalore.

*202 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government Women and Children's Hospital extension scheme in Mangalore was included, as promised, in the very emergent works considered in connexion with the budget for 1926–27;

(b) whether the execution of the scheme is still kept in abeyance and the public fund raised for this purpose now amounting to Rs. 30,000 made to lie idle in the bank; and

(c) whether the contribution already promised by Government will be provided for at least in the next budget?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the explanatory note relating to the motion for the supplementary demand of Rs. 100 passed at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 24th January 1927 in connexion with the scheme for the extension and improvement of the Government Hospital for Women and Children at Mangalore. It is proposed to start work during the current year, the expenditure incurred being met from the public subscriptions. It is proposed to provide a sum of Rs. 30,000 representing the Government share of the cost of the scheme in the Civil Budget Estimates for 1927–28.

Agriculture

Stoppage of export of oil-cakes from the Presidency.

*203 Q.—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Director of Agriculture has recommended the stoppage of export of all oil-cakes from the Presidency so that the agriculture in the Presidency might benefit by the retention of oil-cake in the country and what action the Government have taken in connexion with this recommendation?

A.—The Director of Agriculture recommended in 1924 that the whole question of imposing restrictions on the export of manures should be examined by a committee to be appointed by the Government of India; this recommendation was forwarded by this Government to the Government of India in the same year.

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Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—" In view of the long time, I believe about three years, taken over the matter, will the hon. Minister be good enough to issue a reminder to the Government of India and expedite their reply ? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Even in 1926 the question was considered. We are now awaiting the report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in the matter."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Does the reference to the Commission confine itself to the question of oil-cakes or does it include also bones ? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Indigenous fertilizers, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether any reminder has been sent to the Government of India ? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" No, Sir, because the Government of India said at one time that they were going to refer it to the Committee."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" When did they say so ? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Notice."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" With reference to the exact date the hon. Minister may take time. Will it be possible for him to refer to it approximately by giving the year, if not the month and the date ? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Towards the close of 1924."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" May I know why the Government have kept quiet for this long time ? (Mr. Satyamurti : 'You must put the question to the ex-Minister.') I am asking the Minister who holds the portfolio now. If I should ask the ex-Minister, I have plenty of opportunities to ascertain in private."

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I do not know if the Government of India have since taken any action in the matter."

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know if this Government have expressed its mind in the affair ? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Not, so far as I am aware."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Am I to understand the hon. Minister to mean that to be able to make up his mind on this very simple proposal of putting an embargo on exports, it is quite necessary for this Government to wait for the report of the Commission ? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" The question of exports is a matter for the Government of India."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Then, does it mean that the Government have no power to do it without the consent of the Government of India ? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" No, we have no power."

Industries

Encouragement to oil industry in the Presidency.

*204 *Q.*—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the experiments with the Anderson Oil Expeller for extracting oil from groundnuts and other oil-seeds which the Government made some time ago have not been successful and, if so, whether the Government have selected any other suitable machine for the purpose; and

(*b*) whether the Government are considering any proposals to carry on investigations for the purpose or help any private syndicate for the establishment of oil industry in a suitable place in the Presidency?

A.—(*a*) The trials were not very encouraging. But the Department of Industries has in recent years collected a good deal of information on the subject of extraction of, and trade in, vegetable oils in the Madras Presidency and will be glad to assist enquirers with the estimates of machinery and plant required for the establishment of mills for the extraction of oil from the various classes of seeds and to advise in regard to the possibilities of developing a market for the oil produced.

(*b*) No.

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON:—"The answer to (*a*) says that the Government have in recent years collected a lot of information on the subject of the expression of and trade in vegetable oil, and that the experiments with the Anderson oil expeller have not been encouraging. As far as I know, Sir, this machine was tried as an experimental measure during the time of Sir Alfred Chatterton. Now, as the Government have collected a great deal of information, may I know if the hon. the Development Minister will be good enough to carry on the experiments and set a good example to the people of the country by working any other machine of a better type and capacity, for the development of the oil industry?" 11-30 a.m.

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"The question will be considered, Sir."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Apart from the information which is said to be available with the department, may I ask the hon. Minister whether he has taken pains to find out whether any private oil factory is being run on a commercial scale, independently?"

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I have not found out, Sir." Inaudible.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Is it not a much better thing to find out how private people are doing the business in a commercial way instead of repeating and attempting experiments as with fruits in the Fruit Preserving Institute at Coonoor?"

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I do not know, Sir, how the fruit business comes in here. So far as this business is concerned, I am not aware of anybody working machines or factories."

Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM:—"Will the hon. Minister publish as a pamphlet all the information collected on this question of extraction of oil by several

methods, and so utilize the information collected by Government in giving it to the people who may profit by it?"

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Nothing has been done, Sir, so far as the department is concerned practically for the last ten years. The bulletins on the subject are ten years old and I do not think it will be of any advantage to republish that information which is now out of date."

Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM:—"What I say is this. Seeing that a large quantity of groundnut oil and other oils are being used in dyeing and other industries, will the hon. the Minister be pleased to collect all the available information and publish it in a pamphlet form?"

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"The matter will be considered, Sir."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Are we to understand that no monographs by any individual have been published?"

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I already said, Sir, that two bulletins were published, but there is no use in republishing now in pamphlet form, information which was published so long ago, as at the present time presumably much progress has been made in the direction of the extraction of oil."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Will the hon. the Minister see that he publishes a monograph at least on the subject of oil industry?"

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I have already said that I would consider how far further progress has been made in this line, and if any information is obtained, I shall make it available to the House."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"May I enquire why any other machinery than the Anderson oil expeller has not been used and tried for the purpose of extracting oil? It is well known that many kinds of oil-seeds are exported from India to Europe and they come back to us in the shape of oils extracted by means of various kinds of machinery. I want to know why other machinery than this Anderson oil expeller has not been tried?"

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I have already said, Sir, that this experiment had been dropped ten years ago and the question of continuing or reviving that experiment is under consideration; and I am unable to add anything further to the answer I already gave."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU:—"Is such a scheme under consideration for the past ten years, Sir?"

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"No, no. It was dropped ten years ago."

Public Works

Construction of the bridges at Kattupazha and Irritti.

* 205 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: With reference to my question No. 2231, dated 16th July 1926, will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) what progress has been made with the projected bridges at Kattupazha and Irritti and if there has been delay, the reasons for it;

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(b) why at Irritti the construction of the new bridge was abandoned;

(c) whether the old bridge at Irritti has been restored, and if so, whether it is strong for all class of load appertaining to this particular road having particular regard to the growing heavy motor and other traffic on this road; and

(d) whether the old bridge has been restored to its original strength and if not, why not?

A.—The Government have approved of the construction of a new bridge at Kattupazha. Tenders for a reinforced concrete bridge have been received by the Chief Engineer and the Government hope to receive from him shortly revised plans and estimates for the work.

It is not now proposed to reconstruct the Irritti bridge as the Chief Engineer has reported that the damaged bridge has been restored at a small cost to its original carrying capacity. The Government have agreed with the Chief Engineer that it is unnecessary to increase the carrying capacity of this bridge while other bridges on the Tellicherry-Coorg road which are capable of carrying only a lighter load remain as they are.

Religious and Charitable Endowments

Wakf properties in this Presidency.

*206 Q.—MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many wakf properties in the Madras Presidency and that many of them are mismanaged;

(b) whether the Government propose to bring into force all the provisions of the Mussalman Wakf Act No. XLII of 1923 in this province; and

(c) if so, when and if not, why not?

A.—(a) There are several wakf properties in Madras Presidency, some of which, the Government understand, are not properly managed.

(b) & (c) The question is under the consideration of the Government.

MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—"May I know how long the Government will take to consider and decide this simple question of introducing the provisions of the Mussalman Wakf Act of 1923 in this province?"

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Evidently, Sir, some of the members to whom I have addressed a communication on this matter do not find it so easy, and I have not yet received replies from my hon. Colleagues to whom I have referred these matters. As soon as I receive their replies, I will certainly be in a position to take any further action that may be necessary in the matter."

Assent of His Excellency the Viceroy to the Hindu Religious Endowments Act.

*207 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindu Religious Endowments Act has not been assented to by His Excellency the Viceroy; and

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(*b*) the expenditure incurred by the Hindu Religious Endowments Board from the date of its establishment till the end of 31st December 1926?

A.—(*a*) No. His Excellency the Viceroy has given his assent to the Bill.
(*b*) Rs. 2,61,301-3-0.

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" May I know if the lists of excepted and ordinary temples have been prepared under the Act? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" For what district? "

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" For all the districts."

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" It is rather a big question, Sir, and I am not in a position to give precise information for all the districts. If the hon. Member repeats his question or asks information for any particular district, I can give the information."

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" Will the hon. the Minister be pleased to state whether any information has been received with regard to the Nellore district? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I shall let the hon. Member know in due course."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know—I am afraid the hon. Minister may want notice—out of this sum of Rs. 2,61,301 and odd spent by this Board up to December 1926, how much represents the collections made by the Board and how much represents the loans advanced by this Government to the Religious Endowments Board? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" The collections I do not think, Sir, represent any appreciable portion of this figure given. But I want notice if more detailed information is required."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" That is quite enough for my purpose."

Education

Grant to Indian boarding houses.

* 208 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to refer to the debates in the budget for 1926–27 on pages 461—464 of proceedings, dated 22nd March 1926, and the answer to my question No. 2224, dated 16th July 1926, and to state—

(*a*) to which institutions and how the grant of Rs. 30,000 for Indian boarding houses has been distributed; and

(*b*) whether Government have decided to propose an increase in the grant for Indian boarding houses in the budget for 1927–28 and, if so, by what amount as compared with the grant to European boarding houses?

A.—(*a*) The grant has not yet been distributed.
(*b*) The question of making an increased provision in the budget for next year is under consideration.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" With reference to clause (*a*), may I know why the grant has not yet been distributed? "

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The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Applications have to be received by the D.P.I. No applications have been received by him ? "

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" What is meant by D.P.I., Sir ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The Director of Public Instruction. I thought the hon. Member was long enough in this House to know all this phraseology."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" It was never used in this House before, Sir."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"With regard to (*b*), may I know on what basis is the calculation made for the grant to the Indian boarding houses ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The calculation is at the rate of Rs. 10 per pupil."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Is it Rs. 10 a year ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Yes."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" How many poor boys are allowed this grant all over the Presidency ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The hon. Member will see that even for this sum of Rs. 30,000 provided in the budget there are no applicants."

Local Boards and Municipalities

Grants to local bodies.

*209 *Q.*—Mr. J. KUPPUSWAMI : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased—

(*a*) to state the principles on which the Government make distribution of grants to local bodies for various purposes, including village roads ; and

(*b*) to furnish a statement showing the distribution of such grants for the purpose districtwar during each of the last three years ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) An answer to the hon. Member's question cannot be given in reasonable space, or without disproportionate expenditure of time and labour. If the hon. Member will ask for specific information in regard to any particular grant in respect of any particular district or districts, it will be furnished.

Elected Chairman for Palacole municipality.

*210 *Q.*—Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether, in pursuance of the unanimous resolution of the Palacole municipality, No. 355, dated 21st December 1925, the Government intend to confer on the municipality the right of electing its chairman when the vacancy next occurs in March 1927 ?

A.—The question will be fully considered when the time comes to decide it.

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" If I understand the answer aright, it seems to have been given in January. May I know if the time has now come for consideration of this matter ? "

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The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" No, Sir. Not yet."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask with reference to this question—I take it that the statement in the question is not disputed—which says that the vacancy occurs in March 1927, when, according to the Minister, the time will come for him to decide the question, and if it will not come some time in March ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The exact date is 27th March 1927."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask whether, before 15th March, the Government will make up their minds as to whether they are going to give the Palacole municipality the right of electing its own chairman ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I hope we shall decide it soon."

Construction of the causeway over the river Swarnamukhi.

*211 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the total cost of construction of the causeway over the river Swarnamukhi near Nayudupet, and whether the whole amount was met from the Provincial funds ;

(b) who the Engineer was that prepared plans and estimates for it ;

(c) whether they were approved by the Superintending Engineer, and if so, by whom and when ;

(d) whether the Superintending Engineer inspected the causeway soon after its completion ;

(e) who the contractor was for the said work and who the officer that supervised its construction ;

(f) whether it is a fact that the present condition of the causeway is most unsatisfactory ;

(g) if so, whether any remedy has been sought for by the Government ; and

(h) when the work was completed ?

A.—The Government have no information. They have called for it.

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" May I know when the information has been called for and from whom ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The information has been called for from the President, District Board."

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" When ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Immediately after the question was asked by the hon. Member."

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" Does it take a month and a half to get the information ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" There is a great deal of trouble to get the necessary information."

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" May I know whether the Government have not fixed the date by which they should get the information from the district board ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" No such date was fixed."

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Forests

Assignment of the "Vavveru reserve" to depressed classes.

*212 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI: Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) for how many years past the question of granting the "Vavveru Reserve" in Nellore district for the depressed classes on darkhast is being contemplated; and

(*b*) at what stage is the question now?

A.—(*a*) The question of disafforesting a portion of the reserve for the purpose has been under consideration since 1920.

(*b*) A portion of the reserve, measuring 1,235 acres, was disafforested in 1924 and has been made available for assignment. But, after the scrub jungle growth was cleared, some time necessarily elapsed before the Public Works Department could accomplish the demarcation of the channels which are to irrigate the land. The general plan of the village to be established has already been determined, and the survey and subdivision of the land into assignable blocks is in progress. The Collector hopes to begin the assignment of land in May.

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI:—"May I know if the lands are going to be granted free of cost to the depressed classes?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"That question will be considered when they receive the recommendation of the Collector."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"As a matter of policy, may I ask the hon. Member whether there is any limit of area which can be given to future applicants?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I want notice of the question."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know whether in making these assignments the fact that the Adi-Dravida or depressed class gentleman has already got land will be taken into consideration?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I hope so, Sir."

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI:—"May I know if there is any Government Order issued in 1925, that land under a first-class irrigation source should not be given free of cost?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I rather think the question relates to me, Sir. I did not quite catch what the hon. Member said. Will he kindly repeat it?"

(The question was repeated.)

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I should think it very likely, Sir, but I should like to have notice."

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI:—"May I know if there is such a Government Order and whether it is going to affect the assignment in this case?"

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The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Very likely, Sir, if there is such a Government Order."

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" May I inform the hon. the Revenue Member, Sir, . . . ?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member may have ample opportunities of giving information. He may put his supplementary question." (Laughter.)

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that the people belonging to the depressed classes of the locality have undertaken to disafforest that reserve long before the Government Order came to be issued ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not think, Sir, the hon. Member can quite mean what he says. (Laughter.) It does not lie in the power of private people to disafforest reserves."

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" They have been allowed, Sir. I do not know if the hon. Member is aware of it. That would have cost Government some thousands of rupees if the Government had undertaken to disafforest it separately, and the depressed classes were allowed to do it, and they did it in the hope of getting the land free of cost. If the hon. Member is not aware of it, I cannot be held responsible for it."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I inform the hon. the Revenue Member that such a thing is allowed in other districts also ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" What is the supplementary question, please ? "

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" I am coming to it, Sir. May I ask the hon. Member whether he is aware that such a thing is done in other districts also, namely, the Forest Department entering into a contract as it were with the would-be assignees and have the forest cleared and thereby getting increased revenue ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" That is not the meaning of the word ' disafforest, ' Sir."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" As regards this ' Vavveru reserve,' Sir, I wish to know whether the lands therein are intended to be exclusively assigned to the depressed classes or would a portion at least be given to other caste ryots also ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I want notice."

Land Revenue

Remission of takavi loans in Anantapur, etc.

* 213 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether from the year 1921 onwards any portion of the principal of takavi loans has been remitted in the Anantapur, Bellary and Kurnool districts ; and

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(*b*) if so, what were the actual amounts so remitted in every one of the three districts, and in what years?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) No portion of the principal of takavi loan has been remitted in these three districts since 1921. The amounts stated below were written off as irrecoverable:—

Years.	Kurnool.	Bellary.	Anantapur.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	
1921–22	..	..	No report.
1922–23	282 10 10	54 9 2	
1923–24	46 0 0	222 8 2	
1924–25	..	..	
1925–26	4 7 4	173 5 8	
1926–27 up to date ..	230 2 9	..	

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether he is aware of the fact that this Council at the instance of my Friend, the hon. Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, passed a resolution recommending the remission of takavi loans in these districts some time in 1922 or 1923? If he was, may I know why no remissions were so given and why from 1924 onwards—I see in the reply given here—the items were written off as irrecoverable, when they had the right to get remission of these items?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I must ask for notice of the question, Sir."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know, then, Sir, if the hon. the Revenue Member is prepared to remit portions of the takavi loans during this year at any rate on account of the famine conditions obtaining in the districts concerned?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" No, Sir, it is not usual to remit takavi loans."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I ask the hon. the Revenue Member what the difference is between remitting and writing off loans?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Remission, Sir, is given when the man can pay and we do not ask him to do so. We write off when we cannot get payment by any means."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Does that mean that in the former case the Government is so charitable as not to ask the man to pay even when he can pay?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" It is not the practice to remit these loans. I am not at present aware of any case where loan has been remitted. I have already explained the difference between remission and writing off." 11-45 a.m.

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" May I know whether they propose to remit any proportion of the takavi loans in view of the seasonal conditions now prevailing?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I said no. They will be postponed. The collection of the instalments will be postponed."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" Am I to understand that there is no provision for remission of the takavi loans under the Standing Orders?"

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The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"Government has power to remit but it is ordinarily not done in the case of a loan. A loan is meant to be granted for productive purposes."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"Have they considered the possibility of remitting in view of the prevailing seasonal conditions?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"The question has not been considered this particular year."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"May I know if he will be pleased to say that he will consider it now?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I will consider it if he wishes; but I cannot hold out any hope that it will be done."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"I wish it with the hope that there may be some chance."

Failure of the second crop in Malabar.

*214 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that for want of rains there is partial failure of the second paddy crop in Malabar; and

(*b*) whether the Government propose to make an inquiry into the extent of the failure?

A.—(*a*) The Collector reports that the maharam or second paddy crop harvest is in progress, that the outturn on the double crop lands is fair, while that on the single crop lands is poor. The first or main crop harvested above the average.

(*b*) The Government do not propose to make any special enquiry on the particular matter referred to. Crop particulars are recorded in the village accounts and loss of the second crop on single crop wet lands makes the pattadar eligible for the remission of the charge for the second crop.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"The Collector says that the maharam or second paddy crop harvest is in progress, that the outturn on the double crop lands is fair, while that on the single crop lands is poor. May I know whether the Collector has made his proposal with reference to the whole district of Malabar or with reference to the particular taluks?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"The whole district."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Has he given information with reference to the taluks separately?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"Not so far as I recollect, Sir."

Irrigation

Proposed irrigation works in the Godavari Eastern division.

*215 Q.—Mr. B. VENKATARATNAM: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Public Works Department intends to construct a lock at the 18th mile on the Bank canal in the Central delta of the Godavari Eastern division;

(b) whether there is any proposal for converting Amalapuram canal of the same division into an irrigation canal; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the joint lock of the Amalapuram and Gannavaram canals is going to be separated into two?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government have no information but have called for a report from the Chief Engineer.

Action taken on the recommendations of the Mettur Irrigation Committee.

*216 *Q.*—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether final orders have been passed on the recommendation of the Mettur Irrigation Committee that the lands in Bhavani taluk to the extent of about 20,000 acres may be irrigated with the water from Mettur dam and if so, to what effect;

(b) whether the recommendation of the Committee that the question of irrigating some lands in the Salem district with the water from that dam be further investigated has been given effect to and if so, with what result; and

(c) whether the investigation made regarding further irrigation of lands in the Coimbatore district beyond the 20,000 acres referred to in (a) by taking a channel above Kaveripuram has been completed and if so, with what result?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to G.O. No. 1974 I., dated 16th December 1926, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"As regards (a) and (b), in view of the fact, if I am permitted to say so, that the hon. Law Member's memory seems to be short, may I ask him whether he did not say at the time of the adjournment motion that the matter might be further considered and that the matter might be again gone into after the Government Order?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Yes."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, in view of that, may I know if any further action has been taken in the matter after consulting his colleague or having asked anybody to enquire into the matter?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Yes, Sir, the question is under consideration."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I know how the matter is under consideration? I think there was a recent Government Order by the Government of India by which such matter can be referred to an advisory board. May we be told in what line the matter is being considered?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"When the matter was debated on the last occasion and when the question was raised as to the necessities in the supplementary questions of the hon. Member for Coimbatore and other hon. Members, I said that the Government Order referred to in the answer was the opinion of the Government at that time but with

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regard to what had fallen from the hon. Member from Coimbatore, I said the question will be considered. I think my hon. Friend is referring to the Government of India Order enabling us to consult certain ad hoc board on the question of major improvements, that is the possibility. All that I can say is that the question is under consideration. If further opportunities are given in the course of the general discussion, I will give the further details."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" May I take it that the answer given is not the proper answer? I have been referred to the Government Order. May I take it that the final order has not been passed?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" At present it represents the opinion of the Government. Unless Government have arrived at a modified policy, this would stand."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" As regards (c), may I remind the hon. the Law Member that the Government Order says nothing about it? Clause (c) refers to the action being taken in respect of a channel above the dam near Kaveripuram. May I request the hon. Member to say whether he would go into the matter and see if anything could be done?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I shall have that the matter investigated with reference to the question propounded by the hon. Member."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—" May I know whether in apportioning water in big irrigation schemes Government takes into consideration the fact that a particular tract is likely to benefit a large number of small landholders as against a smaller number of big landholders?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" In making programmes of extensions of irrigation, that is a very important matter to be taken into consideration."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—" May I know if that fact is taken into consideration in new irrigation schemes or only in case of extensions?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" *A fortiori* new."

Legislation

Introduction of a Tenancy Bill for Malabar.

*217 Q.—Mr. K. Madhavan Nayar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce any Tenancy Bill for Malabar;

(b) whether the Bill contains any provisions to prevent arbitrary evictions and melcharths; and

(c) whether the Government intend to give temporary protection to the tenants from arbitrary eviction and melcharth, till the passing of such a Bill?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 51.

[An asterisk *at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

III

REFLECTIONS OF THE "MADRAS MAIL" ON THE MADRAS COUNCIL.

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Mr. President, Sir, a certain leading article in one of the Madras dailies in which the attitude of the hon. the President of this Council has been referred to has been brought to my notice and with your permission, Sir, I propose to deal with the subject-matter to-morrow after question time."

IV

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

A. Non-official Business.

* The hon. the President :—" I have to announce that in addition to the days already allotted by His Excellency the Governor for non-official business, viz., 14th, 29th and 30th March 1927, His Excellency has allotted the 31st March 1927 as an extra day for non-official business."

B. Time-limit of speeches during the General discussion of the Budget.

* The hon. the President :—" Before we proceed to the order of the day —the general discussion of the budget—I should like to mention that under sub-rule (iii) of rule 28 of the Legislative Council Rules, I have fixed, according to the practice hitherto followed, a timelimit of 15 minutes for each hon. Member's speech during that discussion. The afternoon of the third day will be at the disposal of hon. Members of the Government to make their replies."

V

COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL.

With reference to the undertaking given by the hon. the Minister for Development on 24th January 1927 in reply to question No. 22, the Secretary placed on the table copies of the note [a] embodying the information obtained by Government.

VI

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1926-27.

* Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju :—" Mr. President, Sir, as it is usual we are given an opportunity and the privilege of discussing the budget that has been recently introduced by the hon. the Finance Member. But when we consider the advantage accruing from the general discussion and even for the matter of that from the various discussions made after the general discussion on the budget we feel that this is merely a formal matter which will not materially affect either the budget or the policy of the Government. I find it extremely difficult to characterize the budget which is not in any way at great variance from the other budgets that we are having year after year. I cannot say it is disappointing because nothing better can be expected from the hands of the alien bureaucracy who, without having any sympathetic

[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 215 infra.

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understanding of the people and without having the welfare and the prosperity of the people as a whole at their heart, have neglected persistently matters of expenditure which might be really serviceable for the people. Famine is following famine with greater frequency and vigour and rigour and the people of the Presidency are brought not by the accidental matter of any single year but by a course of years into a state of poverty which will force them to go only with one meal a day and that of coarser grain than rice. Irrigation, the primary need of the country, is being neglected grossly in spite of famines year after year. As a matter of fact these irrigation projects are paying very well. In spite of that we see main projects and great productive projects are even delayed abnormally. It is known to the Council that these projects will not in any way affect the budget. They are financed from loans of the India Government who are pleased to lend us the necessary funds at an advantageous rate. These projects are paying a greater amount than what this Government will have to pay to the Government of India as I find from the administration report of the Presidency that the productive works are paying from 12 to 13 per cent interest. In spite of that we see gross neglect. Even if any attempt is made it is made to those favourably situated deltaic districts. The poverty-stricken ryots of the Ceded districts and the other districts which have not got the good fortune of having perennial sources of water-supply from rivers or minor irrigation works are neglected. Small projects such as the restoration of tanks or the construction of small reservoirs which will not require large capital of crores and crores are being neglected. With what effect? Remission after remission is given year after year. From the administration report we find every year remissions to the extent of 27 to 30 lakhs were given. In considering about the productivity of a work you will have to take into consideration the fact that by improving the resources of the so-called unproductive works they will be saving themselves from heavy remissions year after year.

"Then, coming to expenditure which is quite unnecessary, even though noon. year after year or at least in more than one year, the expenditure on the Revenue Board was voted down by the Council, there the Revenue Board is still continuing. I do not know to whose benefit. When this Council says year after year that in this poor country where the high-paid are very much over-paid the low-paid are not getting a salary sufficient to maintain a single individual, no heed is paid to it. The low-paid are groaning under poverty and rise in prices consequent upon famines, which is making their condition more miserable. Take for instance, the case of the village talaiyaris, or of the village officers, or of the low-paid clerks in the various establishments of the Government. These are asked to do Government duty with a salary in some cases of Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 a month. Those who are designated as clerks and who are expected to live a decent and tolerable middle-class life are given a minimum salary of Rs. 35 a month. Can you find a parallel to this in any other country where the Government is paying such a very low salary. The Government say that the country is poor and cannot pay higher salaries; but then, what about the extravagantly higher salaries which are paid here and which are not known even in countries whose incomes are very many times more than our income? What about the Government which wants to feed these higher services and feels the necessity of getting an income from the demoralization of the people? I refer to the income derived from excise. It is the demoralization of the people that is bringing this revenue to the Government. It is said that this revenue will

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be cut down from year to year. In spite of the policy of the Government, both of the past and the present ministry, that drink will be suppressed, we are surprised to find that revenue from drink is increasing, and that too even in spite of the policy expressed by the present Excise Minister this morning and in spite of the total prohibition of at least one of the intoxicating drinks in a few taluks of the Presidency. With reference to the revenue from excise an experiment has been made by the Bombay Government in the way of rationing these country liquors. We find from the budget recently presented there that on account of this rationing consumption of country spirits has decreased and there has been a consequent decrease in revenue. In this Presidency where the health officers and the health staff are not even permitted to preach the evils of drink, it is not surprising that drink is abnormally increasing. There is another reason, I think, for the increase of drink, and that is the poverty of the people. It might look paradoxical. But the fact is that, owing to poverty, thousands and thousands of people are migrating to Rangoon and other foreign places where they are free from local opinion and there they take to drink. It has been my experience to find that even in villages where drink is practically unknown among many communities, when once some members of those communities go to Rangoon or some other colonies and come back contracting this habit, they spread this evil even among those hitherto sober castes.

"In the Budget Memorandum, an attempt is made by the hon. the Finance Member to answer the charge that increased revenue which has accrued by the remissions of the Government of India is mostly spent on Reserved subjects, very little being spent on Transferred departments. It has been pointed out by me previously that it has been the sad experience of this Presidency even before the Reforms that the nation-building departments were starved. And from the statement that is given with regard to the expenditure before the Reforms you will find that somehow or other our Government did not find use for vast sums of money which went into the Imperial Exchequer. We find from the revenue and expenditure account that a great amount of money perhaps on account of non-utilization by the Government was given back to the India Government. That is one of the reasons why the provincial contribution from this Presidency was abnormally high. Even in those days, the nation-building departments were neglected, if not actually starved. Now in the statements of comparison given by the hon. the Finance Member we find of course some statistics, and statistics are misleading and deceptive. He wants to convince us by giving the amounts that have accrued to us since the Reforms and the percentages that have been spent upon the Transferred and Reserved subjects. He has given the percentage of the moneys on those subjects previous to the Reforms. Our complaint is that much money is being spent on Reserved subjects and very little on development departments. The hon. the Finance Member says that so much percentage of money was only given to those departments over the amount before the Reforms. We say that the Reserved departments ought to be retrenched and that not only the amount that is got by such retrenchment but also the whole of the amount that accrues on account of the abatement of provincial contributions ought to have been spent on the nation-developing departments."

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro :—" Mr. President, Sir, I am sure the House will agree with me in appreciating the very lucid and clear financial

statement presented to the House by the hon. the Finance Member, and in his review of the financial position of this province he has struck a new note and has presented the revenue and expenditure sides in such a form that it facilitates easy reference. In other words, where hon. Members will have to wade through figures of revenue and expenditure with a view to close analysis and scrutiny, he has departed from the ordinary procedure and presented figures of revenue and expenditure in a form that we can easily at a glance see where we stand. Again, another feature of the budget is that it gives a promise, a hope of the release of our contributions. If all our representatives in the Legislative Assembly watch our interests and carry the trust which is reposed in them, surely we should expect that these contributions will be remitted, and this province will have the advantage of Rs. 165 lakhs released to us from the Government of India. (Mr. S. Satyamurti: 'What should they do?') It is owing to that burden which has been heavily put upon us that we have been handicapped year after year since the Reforms, and since the Reforms it was the painful duty of the Finance Member and the painful duty of the hon. Members of this House to deplore year after year that this handicap has been such that development in every direction has been crippled and that we have not been able to carry out much. Now, we have the hope that if our representatives in the Legislative Assembly are interested (Mr. Satyamurti: 'How?') in securing the amount that has been a burden on us released from our shoulders, our finances will improve. I am sure the representatives of our province in the Assembly know best how to adjust their own positions and how to satisfy their own conscience and how to discharge their responsibility. Therefore, it is not for me to dictate, it is not for me to decide for them how best to discharge their trust in the best interests of this province. (A voice: 'You can suggest.') I am not going to. (Mr. S. Satyamurti: 'You dare not.')

"It is also gratifying to find that the hon. the Finance Member has been able to budget for a deficit because otherwise he would not be able to provide anything for the development departments. If there is a surplus, then it would be a disaster to this province. Hence he has done very rightly to budget for a deficit ostensibly. But I shall show by an analysis of the figures presented how that is not a real deficit, because if you take what is called the opening balance with what is estimated to be the revenues of the province, you will find that there is a surplus to our credit and it is not really a deficit of Rs. 69·33 lakhs as it is shown by a manipulation of the budget. I will show that for the release of our contributions it is a very far-reaching principle by which we have nearly achieved our goal of provincial autonomy. (Mr. S. Satyamurti: 'Oh!') Because financial independence is a condition precedent to provincial autonomy. If we are still in the leading strings of the Government of India, if our finance and accounts are dependent on the Central Government, if our audit and accounts are not separated, then you can never have that independence. Therefore, provincial financial independence to my mind is the *sine qua non* of provincial autonomy.

12-15 p.m. "Therefore I welcome the announcement made by the hon. the Finance Member that we shall have a remission of the contribution to the Central Government.

"Now looking at the budget figures as given by the hon. the Finance Member, we find that he anticipates a revenue of 16,54·80 lakhs. Now this

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requires close examination. Naturally the Finance Member and the Government will be anxious to see what was the best position with regard to the revised estimates. The revised estimates of the current year are a standard and a guide for anticipating the revenues of the next year. They are not conclusive in any way, and they are subject to variations for the next three or four months during which it may increase or decrease. Hence you cannot always take the revised estimates as a safe guide. We have to arrive at a certain standard for purposes of comparison. How is the average standard to be worked out? The Finance Member says that it is not a possible or practical work because it is subject to other conditions which he has specified in his speech. I venture to differ from him. It is possible to fix a standard of comparison. When we have once fixed a standard for one year we can go on seeing what the fluctuations or variations are in succeeding years.

"There is another thing which the hon. the Finance Member has indicated, namely, the average increase of revenue each year. If we add on these figures to the standard revenue that can be fixed for the budget of next year then we find that 16·80 lakhs would be the probable revenue that can be anticipated next year. However, though he said in his speech there is an element of recklessness in budgeting for the next year, I am sure you will now see that there is excessive caution in ascertaining the figures of revenue for the next year.

"Then if you take the figures of revenue as the Finance Member gives us, 16,54·80 lakhs, the expenditure is estimated at 17,24·13 lakhs. Then he arrives at the opening balance of the next year or the closing balance of the current year, which he expects to be 134·71 lakhs. If we take the opening balance of 134·71 lakhs with the estimated revenues, then we will have a fund available for purposes of budget next year. Deducting for next year 69·33 lakhs we have still a balance available. Thus, as I said, the hon. the Finance Member has erred on the side of excessive caution in preparing the budget for next year. Now, taking this surplus that we have, and what we have of contribution of 1,65 lakhs, we have on the whole 2,30·38 lakhs for the purpose of expenditure on non-recurring items. In the previous year's budget we had not been able to spend the whole of the amount. Therefore, there is always a surplus available for the purpose of closing balance of every year. The closing balance of the year can be arrived at no doubt late in the year, that is, about November or December, which only the Finance Member is able to say. But what is our experience on the previous occasion as to the capacity of our expenditure? As he himself says, 'the eye of each of our departments is apt to be larger than its digestive apparatus,' and provision may be made with regard to the non-recurring expenditure on the surplus at the end of the year. Therefore the unspent balances carried on to the next budget will be its opening balance, and the amount of non-recurring expenditure all told will be 2,30·38 lakhs for next year. Now the question is, what is this House going to do with this? The House has got a serious responsibility in this matter. When our contributions are released, we must consider how best we should utilize it. Hon. Members here who were in the first Council will remember the time when amendments to Court Fees and Stamp Acts were made, the time when the registration fees were enhanced. I said at the time that it was only temporary increase and that it is possible to get a complete relief from the iniquitous impost in another year or two. So it shall be the duty of the House to devise a measure to

bring down the enhanced registration fees. The second question the House would have to consider is with regard to the reduction of court fees and stamp duties. Now the surplus should be utilized in the reduction of the two taxes. I think about 50 lakhs would be required for these purposes It is therefore necessary that the House should decide once for all now to ask the Government to introduce the necessary measures to relieve these taxes. The second item on which this 69·33 lakhs should be spent is rural development. National development of the rural area is the most urgent thing for which adequate provision should be made."

* Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar:—" Mr. President, Sir, the hon. the Finance Member has to be congratulated on his frank and lucid exposition of financial facts and details and especially for the tone of optimism which pervades it, and the hopes and expectations raised of our being about to be altogether relieved of the terrible burden which the Meston Award has imposed on this province and which stands in the way of our finances being reorganized and made to rest on stable foundations and made to contribute to such necessary reforms as cannot be delayed without detriment to the welfare of the toiling masses of this province. What the primary needs are may be summed up in one phrase providing such conditions and means of existence as are favourable to this development of *Mens sana in corpor sano*, a sound mind in a sound body. I have often wondered how it is possible to form a vigorous nation of such streams of pale, anæmic men and women as throng our thoroughfares in cities and carry on their work in rural areas in a drowsy fashion. Large grants should be made to local bodies for the purpose of improving sanitation and water-supply and adequate provision should be made for the improvement of irrigation, agriculture with its allied activities. These are works of prime national importance which call for liberal treatment as distinguished from works of secondary importance or of doubtful utility which can well afford to wait. I take first sanitation. This reminds me of the speaker who began with the well-known saying of *Solomon, Vanitas Vanitatum et omnia vanitas* changed into *Sanitas Sanitatum et omnia sanitas*. From the premier municipality of Madras down to the smallest municipality in the mufassal there is a cry for good supply of water, for construction of drainage works or for prevention of stagnant pools. It is no wonder that practically all this year round smallpox and other epidemics are prevalent. It should therefore be the first charge on the provincial budget and on the budgets of local bodies to improve sanitation. Rural sanitation requires a further impetus. A good stand was made by the Raja of Panagal when he inaugurated this scheme of rural medical relief. A more liberal allotment should be made this year than in previous years for this purpose. That the scheme may prove really beneficial the allowances paid to the M B.B S.'s and L.M.P.'s and the pay of the midwives should be raised by at least one-fourth; the equipment of drugs improved and a suitable house rent allowed for the dispensary. This will attract the best talent to villages and the presence of these men will contribute not only to efficient medical relief but also, I believe, better the sanitary conditions there.

12-30 p.m. " Secondly, agriculture, Sir, is the chief occupation—I may almost say the only occupation worth considering—of the people of this province. It is also a most important and certain source of revenue. It will, therefore, make for economic prosperity not to weigh down the already indebted ryot

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by the imposition of penal assessment or water-rates for technical mistakes which are very often the result of ignorance, so that his penal assessment amounts to nearly a third or fourth of the actual kist collection. By affording the agriculturists increased irrigation facilities, which would ensure a better yield, they may be saved from the clutches of the money-lenders. The Government should be also vigilant in the matter of ensuring proper conservancy and economic use as the case may be of water for single or double crops.

"It is gratifying to note that of late there has been a tendency to make more liberal allotments for irrigation, both major and minor. This is as it should be, especially in the case of minor irrigation works. Irrigation sources fall under two categories : (1) those connected with the irrigation systems of delta tracts and (2) those dependent upon eris and tanks. The latter, Sir, whether under the control of the Public Works or Revenue authorities, have been suffered to deteriorate. The banks or bunds of eris and tanks have become damaged and their storage capacity has diminished either because the channels which supply them with water are not kept in a proper state of repair or because the water is diverted to their own irrigation sources by the villagers living on the upper courses. So, unless the authorities concerned visit the rural parts, look to the necessity of removing the silt in the bed of eris, in the bed of supply channels, etc., and unless large sums are voted for the purpose, I fear the condition of the agriculturist who has to depend upon the caprices of the monsoon is bound to be one of despair.

"As for the ryots who enjoy the benefits of the irrigation system in the delta tracts, their condition is also often precarious. Confining myself to the Cauvery delta, I find in the Cauvery Committee's report several suggestions and recommendations. These include the raising of the flood bank of the Cauvery and the Vennar, the remodelling of sluices, improved regulators, etc. I am glad the Government are giving effect to these recommendations. It is but just that all these recommendations in toto should be given effect to before the Cauvery-Mettur project becomes a *fait accompli*. And if this larger scheme can avert floods and ensure a steady flow of water down to the lowest reaches of the Cauvery it will fulfil all reasonable expectations. But, for this our experts must avoid putting the cart before the horse, of going on with the acquisition of lands, construction of officers' quarters and bridges before they satisfied themselves as to the strength and durability and immunity from every risk of the head works. The change of the venue of the head works after nearly two years of careful scrutiny and preliminary investigation and experiment is very regrettable. Not that I do not approve of it, for it is better late than never, but what this may mean in rupees is more than I can say.

"Turning now to the work of other departments beneficial to agriculturists, I would suggest the starting of one or two land mortgage banks, with a view to relieve the indebtedness of the agriculturists, one or two agricultural schools and a system whereby the ryot may enjoy the full benefit of agricultural loans, of takavi loans. As it is he cannot derive adequate profit from his labours owing to the absence of roads and communications, it is impossible for him to bring manure, etc., to his fields or take his produce to the town. Co-operation can do much in these matters. But, for this, there must be a right kind of elementary education, a right kind of adult education

and a right kind of mass education. My humble submission is that elementary education must become a unit by itself and be related to the facts of life. Till now elementary schools have been preparing pupils for secondary schools and these in turn have been preparing them for university studies. The only object a parent or guardian has in educating his son or ward is to enable him to secure a post in Government service or in the Railways. Is it any wonder then that many students after the secondary cour se show no disposition to return to the land, and are prepared to migrate to Burma, Ceylon or Federated Malay States, if they fail to get any employment in towns where graduates and Honours men with professional qualifications deem it extremely lucky to get a sub-inspector's place in Excise or Police. Sir, there must be a radical change in the angle of vision. Instead of being merely a stepping stone to collegiate education, elementary and secondary education must be each of a distinct kind providing a good equipment for life. Whatever their defects the pial schools had this thing in their favour, that they formed an integral part of village life and imparted a sound knowledge of Indian arithmetic with its marvellous system of reckoning to the fraction of a pie and a graduated but deep study of Tamil grammar, I am speaking for Tamil districts. It is true science as such was not taught. But what knowledge of physical geography, astronomy and natural sciences one acquired by a careful study of Nannul and Nigandu and what philosophy of life, what morals were found in the teachings of Avvai and Thayumanavar, Naladiar and Thiruvalluvar, sufficed for all practical purposes, left a lasting impression on the reader and led to an extensive study of both sangam and post-sangam Tamil literature. The best way of making elementary education a reality and not a sham is to adapt it to village life. In fact elementary schools ought to become centres and nurseries for disseminating elementary principles of hygiene and sanitation, agriculture and co-operation, ought to become centres of propaganda for promoting temperance and social service. Sir, coming to Excise . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member has reached his time-limit."

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—"I fear nothing (laughter) has been done to reduce consumption. Because, I read in paragraph 17 of the Excise Administration Report that ten arrack shops, thirteen toddy shops and three ganja shops were newly opened in certain places in eighteen districts where the absence of licit sources of supply was keenly felt. (Mr. S. Satyamurti : 'When was it?') Keenly felt! As if the craving for drink was a legitimate craving, a craving implanted by nature, which had to be satisfied, as if intoxicants were as indispensable for life as necessaries any deprivation of which meant serious discomfort, starvation and death."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—"I cannot but congratulate the hon. the Finance Member on his ability and good fortune in making deficit budgets into surplus budgets in the previous three years. I am sure he will also make the deficit budget of 1927-28 into a surplus budget when he presents the budget for 1928-29.

"Mr. President, Sir, before we go into the budget itself, let us take stock of the losses and gains we have had during these six years. It is well known that so far as the Congress party is concerned they have always been of opinion that diarchy is unworkable. But the Government and some

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hon. Members of the other parties think that it is workable. So far as the provincial Government is concerned, they have been saying that with the goodwill and co-operation of the Legislative Council, they can always make diarchy workable. But if we look into the history of these six years we will see that very little would be achieved by the working of this diarchical system. The burden of taxation borne by the agriculturist who, in the words of His Excellency the Viceroy, is the foundation upon which the whole of the economic prosperity of India rests, has been increased. The demand of the agriculturist has been the permanent settlement of land tenure and improved irrigation facilities and an Act regulating irrigation cess. But what has happened in this Council is that no land tenure has been settled. Even the new Bill which has been recently published shows that no attempt is going to be made by this Government towards that end. With regard to the Irrigation Bill what part the Government has played is fresh in the memory of hon. Members. The Governor did not give his assent to the Irrigation Bill passed by this Council. We have it from the hon. the Law Member and in the speech of His Excellency that the provisions on which stress was laid by this Council have been taken away from the new Bill proposed to be introduced.

"If this Council consents to the Government going its own way a Bill will be introduced. When the further consideration of that Bill which was introduced was postponed, even the hon. Member who moved for the postponement was not aware that that Bill would not be introduced again. He naturally thought that that Bill as it stood at that date would be introduced again. Taking advantage of the legal position, the hon. the Law Member now says that he is not going to introduce that Bill, but that he would introduce a Bill in which the provisions that are very useful to the ryot will not be included. This is the result of the dyarchic system. If the hon. the Law Member were in our position and if he had to face the electorate as he did once, he would not use such language. Otherwise, he would not be tolerated for a day. Unfortunately the Treasury Bench Members are free from the risks of facing an electorate, except, of course, the hon. Ministers. 12-45 p.m.

"I come now to the excise policy of the Government. It is difficult for me to understand the position of the Government on this question. I thought that this being a transferred subject the hon. Ministers will have full authority to deal with the matter as they liked. But from the Government Order now issued by the Government I understand that it is not only not in the power of the Ministers to do anything but that the whole Cabinet put together cannot adopt a policy of prohibition without the consent of the Government of India. When the Justice Party came into power they ought to have been aware of the feeling in the country on this question. They simply aided the Government in arresting and sending to prison peaceful preachers of temperance. They could not make up their minds to do something in the matter and they never wanted to do anything real and therefore they thought the best way of doing it was to appoint an advisory committee as I am told they always do, and ask the committee to advise. Perhaps, the Ministers got into position without knowing what they should do with regard to the questions with which they were entrusted. The Advisory Committee which was appointed in 1921 sent its report in 1925—a very short time indeed! The report was dealt with exhaustively by the Council. My hon. Friend Mr. Satyamurti moved a resolution asking the

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Government to declare that prohibition was their goal and to take certain steps in that direction immediately. That resolution was thrown out chiefly with the aid of the Justice Party. My hon. Friend Mr. Muniswami Nayudu then moved a resolution asking the Government to declare that their policy was to reach total prohibition within a period of twenty years. But very unfortunately,—I do not know whether it was an inspired action, but I do not think that my hon. Friend would have done it if left to himself—a rider was added to the resolution to the effect that the question should be referred to the Finance Committee for the purpose of finding out other sources of revenue for making up the loss of revenue which would result from the adoption of that policy. I suppose that the question is now before the Finance Committee. I do not know whether the Finance Committee will take four years or ten years or even the maximum period of twenty years mentioned in the resolution of my hon. Friend. Now, the Government comes with a Government Order on the subject. I cannot understand whether this Government has got any power to issue a Government Order like this after the Council has passed a resolution on the subject. In that Government Order they mercilessly condemn every proposal made in this Council. I question the authority of those responsible for the issue of the Government Order. I do not think that this would be tolerated in any other country. If a resolution is passed in the House of Commons to-day and if the British Cabinet issued an order condemning the views expressed in the Parliament they would not be allowed to continue in office. In this Government Order here the Government say that it is not their policy to aim at total prohibition. They point out that this resolution was passed by only 39 members voting for it while as many as 41 remained neutral. I never thought that the Government would resort to reasoning of this sort. What happened was this. Both the Swaraj Party and the Justice Party barring of course the hon. Ministers who are ex-Ministers now, were of opinion that prohibition should be the goal; and the only difference was with regard to the time limit. The Justice Party accepted Mr. Muniswami Nayudu's resolution because it fixed the time limit they liked. The Government now say that the resolution was carried only by 39 votes. Among the 41 members who remained neutral as many as 26 belonged to the Swaraj Party who all voted for prohibition. There was no difference of opinion with regard to prohibition. I do not see why the Government should feel delicate in the matter of adopting prohibition as their goal and doing justice to the poor in the country. Even the hon. Members on the Treasury Bench could not make up their minds to vote against the resolution; because they thought they could safely issue an order behind the back of the Council. In a transferred subject like this when the party in power passes a resolution like this and say that prohibition should be the goal I thought that it would be binding on the Ministry to carry it out. If the Ministers are not willing to carry out the behests of their own party the only way open to them is to have resigned. (A voice: 'They have resigned.') Not as a result of this. I wish to refer to that aspect of the question later on."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member has almost reached his time limit."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"The dyarchic system of Government will not suit any country and it will lead only to absurdities. Under this system a party which has not got a majority of seats in the House can come

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into power. The Justice Party had a majority of seats in the first three years and they were then in power. But during the second period of three years they were in power with the assistance of the Government votes . . ."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, in the budget of this year the Cauvery-Mettur project looms very large. This project has been before us for several years now and I should like to sound a note of warning regarding the way in which the expenditure on that project is being incurred without an irrigation law. Enormous expenditure is being incurred on that project. The staff consists of one Chief Engineer in charge of the whole operations, two Superintending Engineers, four Executive Engineers, one Electrical Engineer—all these on high pay—one Collector, eight Deputy Collectors and so on. Already large expenditure has been incurred. His Excellency the Governor was saying the other day that 37 miles of road had been completed and quarters for a gang of five thousand coolies had been built. In the budget of the current year the amount budgeted runs to one crore and though the whole amount is not likely to be spent, as much as 54 lakhs of rupees has been spent. For the coming year 1927-28 they have budgeted for an expenditure of Rs. 120 lakhs. And now the question is whether it will be safe to spend all this amount on this project or for the matter of that on any other big irrigation work without an irrigation law. Hon. Members will remember that the detailed estimate for this project runs to six crores and 12 lakhs of rupees. The chances are, as we know in all matters like this, that this estimate will be considerably increased by the time the work is over. When my hon. Friend the Law Member who is a very cautious and learned lawyer introduced the Irrigation Bill in this Council on the 6th February 1924 the burden of his song as I take it rightly, was that without an irrigation law, it would not be possible to spend large sums of money on such projects and he referred to the Mettur project among them in particular. He stated that on former occasions in 1909 and in previous years when this Government approached the Government of India for loans to carry out irrigation projects the Government of India refused the loan on the solitary ground that it was unsafe to carry on irrigation projects like that without an irrigation law and if they did so they would be involved in embarassing litigation. Again, the Law Member stated that this Government approached the Government of India with a similar request on another occasion and the same reply was given to them. Again the hon. the Law Member stated that he himself went in person, as we all know he did, and had personal consultation with the Viceroy and with the Members of the Government of India. Even then he had the same answer, namely, that without an irrigation law the Government of India would not be prepared to grant a loan. This he stated on 6th February 1924 in introducing the Bill. When the financial year was about to close in 1924 he stated that even though it would not be possible to pass the Bill before the close of the financial year, if a Bill was introduced and the principles thereof were accepted in this Council, the Government would approach the Government of India and tell them that this Council had committed itself to an irrigation law and induce them to grant the necessary loan. It was on that undertaking that we consented to the first reading of the Irrigation Bill in 1924.

" That was so long ago as the beginning of 1924. The Irrigation Bill was accepted by this Council; it was referred to a Select Committee; the 1 p.m.

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Select Committee sat upon it and the Bill was considered by the Council and passed practically. I wish to know 'where is the irrigation law'?"

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Why did you vote for the postponement of the Bill?"

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"For this distinct reason. The members of our party which was then in power, were afraid that His Excellency the Governor would certify the taxation provisions if we passed them. That fact was pointed out by the hon. the Law Member himself. We did not want to give an opportunity to the head of the province or the Government to certify the taxation provisions without the consent and against the wishes of the Council. I may tell my hon. Friend, Mr. Satyamurti, that that was the special reason why the members of our party silenced the hon. the Revenue Member and had the Bill postponed."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"You are responsible for that."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"For that reason I believe the whole Council postponed the consideration of the Bill then. I did not want to go into that question now. I was forced to refer to it by my hon. Friend.

"My point is 'where is the irrigation law'?"

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"You are responsible for not having an irrigation law."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I hope that my hon. Friend will not interrupt me any longer, not because I am not willing. I am capable of answering him and willing to answer him. My point is 'where is the irrigation law?' Where is safety for this Government and the Council in proceeding with a huge expenditure which is not in lakhs but in crores. I submit that it is a dangerous course. For want of time I do not want to quote the observations of the hon. the Law Member. He is a very cautious lawyer; he is a very eminent lawyer who will not proceed with a work without deeply pondering over it. On a subsequent occasion when the hon. Mr. Narasimha Raju asked the Government 'what would be the result of a large amount being incurred on the Mettur project without an irrigation law, my hon. Friend, the Law Member, answered on 28th October 1925 that only preliminary expenses were being incurred and that the Bill would become law before channels and distributaries are started with. Crores of rupees are being spent now on canals, etc. The hon. the Law Member said that before huge expenditure was incurred, the Bill would become law. The Bill has not become law. On another occasion, the hon. Member, the Raja of Ramnad interpellated the hon. Member specifically whether it was possible to carry out the Mettur project without an irrigation law. My hon. Friend was clear, as he always is, and said emphatically 'no; without an irrigation law it is not possible to carry on this work.' I do not want to dilate upon the point further. Such is the past history of this law. Is it desirable, is it safe to incur such huge expenditure—as I said, it is not in lakhs but in crores—without an irrigation law?

"I pass on to another subject which is also financially a very important one because a large sum of money is provided in the budget. I refer to the

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re-modelling of the General Hospital in Madras. Here again, no detailed estimate has been prepared for this work unless it was done after we last met. In a note that was circulated then, it was clearly stated that no detailed estimate had been prepared. As it is entered in the budget, the rough estimate of expenditure for this work is Rs 39 lakhs; they have provided for Rs. 2 lakhs for expenditure during the coming year. Here again, the chances are—Diwan Bahadur Arogyaswami Mudaliyar who is in charge of the department must know being a distinguished member of the Public Works Department—that the budget estimate will be very much exceeded. I will not be surprised if 39 lakhs of rupees become 70 lakhs.

"What is the past history of the project? They say it is an urgent one and an important one. I do not know how, all on a sudden, it has become an urgent one. The Government began to think of this project, changing the site of the hospital or additional buildings for the General Hospital in 1909; they wanted to remove completely the General Hospital to the Spur Tank. It was considered and was abandoned. An estimate for Rs. 74 lakhs was prepared. Then they wanted to construct the hospital near the Ordnance lines. They abandoned that proposal also. They wanted to construct a building in a portion of the Island ground. An estimate was prepared for Rs. 64 lakhs; that was abandoned. Then a committee was appointed consisting of the Superintendent of the General Hospital and a subordinate of the department and an engineer. The engineer was a layman; he did not know anything about the details of the Medical Department. They came to the conclusion that it was necessary to re-model the existing building at a cost of Rs. 39 lakhs. Curiously enough, the Chief Engineer has stated that existing medical wards are admirably adapted for the purpose. When the whole Presidency is crying for want of water, when water-supply is scanty, total absence of water is most keenly felt, when sanitary arrangements are not being carried out and when medical aid is not given to the people in the mufassal, I ask, Sir, 'where is the need for spending the huge sum of Rs. 39 lakhs?' If we pass the provision of Rs. 2 lakhs in the budget for this purpose, the House will stand committed to the expenditure of Rs. 39 lakhs. Where is the need to spend this money?

"As a matter of fact, Madras has excellent provision for giving medical aid to people. I wish to point out in the first place—the hon. Minister will correct me if I am wrong—that with this huge expenditure of Rs. 40 lakhs, not one additional bed is intended to be provided for. That is the result of my enquiries of the Medical authorities.

"There is an excellent hospital—another General Hospital—in the city, the Rayapuram Hospital, which was recently built in Sir Alexander Cardew's time a Member of Government who was very fond of hospitals and who was very lavish with regard to them. It is an up-to-date hospital. It was built at a cost of several lakhs. There is another General Hospital, the Royapetta Hospital. Then there is the Women and Children's Hospital which is considered one of the best kind in the East; there is the Ophthalmic Hospital; there are so many hospitals in the city. Without provision for any additional bed it is suggested that a sum of Rs. 45 lakhs should be spent. I submit that the scheme does not seem to be necessary. I do not know whether this Council will have an opportunity to reduce the provision for this scheme. I hope there will be an opportunity. If not, I ask my hon. Friend Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar to remember this matter.

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"I wish to say a few words with reference to the reduction of court fees and stamps which has already been referred to by my hon. Friend Sir Patro. I submit, Sir, that it is quite necessary to reduce them. In the year 1922 when this Government was threatened—my hon. Friend Mr. Moir was then the Finance Secretary—with a deficit of about Rs. 106 lakhs, the party in power then agreed to the suggestion of the hon. Mr. Habib-ul-lah Sahib and Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar to raise the court fees and stamps."

* Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I have great pleasure in rising to congratulate my hon. Friend the Finance Member on the lucidity of his exposition of the budget. The air of optimism and the cheerful ease with which he took us through the budget were calculated to arouse the interest of the new comers which, it is hoped, will be sustained throughout when the House will subject the budget to detailed scrutiny.

"I pass on now to make a few observations on topics which, I have no doubt, will be of interest to this House. The topic I would venture to take up first is one of absorbing interest to all Indians—and if I may so put it to all Members of this House, officials as well as non-officials—the topic of Indianization. There is plenty of opportunity to give effect to this all-important principal. I wonder whether those who are in power are going to give this country and its people the benefit of those opportunities which immediately lie before them. I put special emphasis upon this aspect because the first Member of Council happens to be an Indian. If in his time, sufficient emphasis is not given to this topic, I wonder in whose time we will get sufficient attention attracted to it. I may venture to mention the higher appointments in the Police service. I wonder how far he has utilized his opportunities to indianize this department. There are the Inspector-General, the Deputy Inspectors-General and other high functionaries and in the Criminal Investigation Department you have a superior staff. If you want really to be benefited by the operations and activities of the higher officers in the Police and Criminal Investigation Department I think you have got to appoint Indians, as many as possible, to these higher appointments. Otherwise, even with an Indian presiding over the destinies of Indians, the charge that a foreign Government was administering the country with suspicion would continue. The results of the operations of the higher officers of the Criminal Investigation Department are not worth having unless we entrust those operations with the Indians themselves. While on this topic of Indianization I may as well call attention to other spheres within the control of the hon. the Law Member.

1-15 p.m. "There is the biggest masonry project of the world now on, the Cauvery-Mettur project. There is that other costly scheme, the Pykara scheme. These two schemes offer splendid opportunities for Indianization in more senses than one. We have got highly qualified Indian Engineers and Superintending Engineers. Indians have not been found unfit to occupy the highest engineering posts in this country. The question is how far the Law Member has availed himself of the splendid opportunities afforded by these schemes in putting efficient, qualified, trustworthy Indians in charge of these projects. I am rather inclined to suspect that adequate scope is not afforded to Indians of worth and merit. I should like the hon. the Law Member particularly to utilize the opportunities during the rest of his tenure of office, to give effect to this important point. These two schemes will, I dare say, offer splendid opportunities as training ground for deserving

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Indians who are fit to be encouraged. It is a great difficulty in these days, whether in our own country or elsewhere, to find opportunities for practical training for our young men. We do not find it possible to persuade European millowners and factory owners to take Indians as probationers for training. Now, these two projects are projects carried on at enormous public expense. Are you going to avail yourself of them, or are you going to throw away the splendid opportunities that are in front of you, for giving practical training to as large a number of Indian young men as you possibly can? I think that is a topic on which too much emphasis cannot be laid.

"In respect to this matter, again, before taking leave of it, I would ask: as it is agreed that differences of opinion have arisen on important preliminary points and as it is likely that differences may yet arise, and as it is of the utmost importance that between one Engineer and another that may happen to be thrown together in carrying out these big schemes, co-ordination is necessary in order to solve possible differences of opinion as and when they arise, what is the machinery that the hon. the Law Member proposes to set up? Are we merely to get the advice of one Engineer, are we to be guided by one Engineer for a while, later on to discover that his advice has been unsound, and subsequently are we to turn to the advice of others whose advice when earlier it was expressed, did not attract attention? Would it not be wise to set up an outside expert body of Chief Engineers, say of the other provinces, whenever you are confronted with serious differences of opinion as amongst those on the spot, so that you can refer such points of difference to such an outside body of expert advisers and feel that every step has been taken to ensure a safe and steady advance, behind which you would not have to go again?

"Reverting now to the topic of Indianization in the Transferred departments, may I ask the Minister concerned why even in the department of Co-operation we are not having the full benefit of Indianization to the possible limit? Why should that department in its operations not be guided by an Indian? If even in the department of Co-operation we are not going to have the benefit of an Indian presiding over it, I wonder what other department would be considered safe and expedient to be presided over by an Indian. Taking again the Excise department, how many of the superior officers are Indians? How long is this state of affairs to continue? I understand that out of about eight Assistant Commissioners, there is only one Indian. What is it that stands in the way of the natives of this country getting appointed to a suitable proportion of posts even in these Transferred departments? It is now quite a long time after the introduction of the Reforms, and it is no use saying that we are yet in the beginning. It may be that we are yet in the beginning so far as the present Ministry is concerned; but that others have failed to do their duty in their time can hardly be regarded as an excuse for those who come after them, i.e., those who come after them because of the failure of those that have gone away. Perhaps this question of Indianization would be sufficiently solved only if we got rid of the system of recruitment and of the authorities that are now responsible for making recruitments and after we set up a Provincial Public Services Commission to take charge of all these appointments. The substitution of a Provincial Public Services Commission in the place of the present Staff Selection Board, is really a topic on which too much emphasis cannot be laid.

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"Passing on now to the department of Law and Justice, confining our attention for the moment to the highest court in the land, the High Court of Madras, I am afraid the methods in vogue in the matter of appointments to the High Court Bench are far from satisfactory. (Hear, hear.) In all departments of activity, special expert knowledge and training are deemed to be of great importance. In the domain of law alone, would you make an exception? Is it not rather a sphere where much more than in other spheres or departments expert knowledge is of the highest value and practical experience and training are of the greatest advantage? We no doubt are aware of the embarassments and handicaps of the statutory law on the subject in respect of which the place is not this House where we have to seek redress; but why need we add to those embarassments and difficulties others of our own making? This is essentially a sphere of appointments where, if at all efficiency and nothing but the utmost efficiency should be the proper test and the criterion."

(At this stage the Secretary sounded the gong and the Member resumed his seat.)

*Mr. K. ABDUL HYE SAHIB:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am one of those who sympathise with the hon. the Finance Member regarding the Provincial Budget which has been placed before us this morning for discussion. At the same time, Sir, I must point out that when presenting the Budget, the axe of retrenchment has not been properly applied to certain heads of expenditure. For instance, Sir, in the Jail department, there has been criticism in previous years by this House that the expenditure on that department was being kept very high and it has been urged that it should be cut down. And in the case of certain jails, for instance the Alipore jail, it was urged on more than one occasion that the jail was quite unnecessary and that it might be abolished. It was also urged that a general amnesty might be granted to all the Mappilla convicts and only those who were convicted of grave offences might be retained, releasing all those who were convicted of minor or small offences. If that is done, I think Government will not only do justice, but on the other hand, the large expenditure on maintaining that jail will itself be saved.

"Coming to the transferred side, I am glad, however, that a decent amount has been allotted for giving grants to local bodies, because this grant may be utilized for improving the scale of pay that has been sanctioned for elementary teachers but which the local bodies could not give effect to, because they had not got enough funds; with the result that the poor teacher has to rot on a salary of Rs. 14 or Rs. 15.

"And what amount of work can these teachers turn out with their scanty salary is a thing to be imagined. Even now, it is not too late. The Government might, at this juncture, go to their rescue and earn the gratitude of the starving school-masters by bearing a reasonable portion of the additional expenditure involved if the local boards were to give effect to the sanctioned progressive scale which alone is likely to create the much-desired effect and induce them to devote their whole time for their work. The grant-in-aid now paid to aided schools being too insignificant for any real improvement, it does not seem possible either to compel the aided school-master to devote his undivided attention to school work or to place him beyond temptations. Only an early revision of the scale can mend matters.

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"The educational survey made during the past few years was no doubt a step in the right direction, but the prescription of the minimum population of 500 as the basis for opening Local Fund schools irrespective of other considerations, placed an undue restriction on Muhammadan elementary education, by shutting out a large number of deserving Muhammadan villages. Even now it is not too late for prescribing a separate minimum of strength for Muhammadan schools with a view to make local boards open a decent number of Urdu Board elementary schools.

"The importance attached to vernaculars which sooner or later will compulsorily be made the medium of instruction in the High School classes, placed the axe at the very root of Muhammadan higher education which is already backward. The Muhammadan boys will always form a minority and will have therefore either to give up their mother tongue in favour of the district vernacular and thereby add to their stock of already existing miseries, or give up their education altogether.

"The only remedy for this drawback lies in starting Urdu High and Secondary schools in some of the districts where there is a demand for the same. The two existing secondary schools at Cudappah and Nandyal within my constituency for example might be converted into Urdu High schools. I would also suggest that in the best interests of Muhammadan education, an inspector of schools might be appointed solely to look after Muhammadan education. It is a serious question and it behoves Government to seriously consider the problem, so that the future Muhammadan education is not jeopardised by the introduction of vernaculars as the medium of instruction to the exclusion of Urdu which is our mother tongue. It is therefore, I suggest, that some officer of the superior cadre as the District Educational Officer may be appointed, particularly to watch the progress of Muslim education. 1-30 p.m.

"The pace with which female education is progressing in our midst is too well known to need any special mention by means of statistics. The case of Muhammadan girls' education is still more appalling. It is therefore my well considered opinion that unless and until one subordinate officer of every girls' circle is placed under the sole charge of Muhammadan girls' schools in that circle as in the case of Muhammadan boys' schools, there is absolutely no hope for the education of the Muhammadan girls in the near future.

"There is another serious matter which I wish to place before the House, namely, the recent failure on the part of some Muhammadans to get themselves elected to the Senates of the Madras and Andhra universities, which must serve among others as an eye-opener to all who espouse the cause of mixed electorates in preference to separate electorates on all statutory bodies like the universities and the local boards where the much abused and irresponsible nominations still continue to exist. When once the principles of separate elections were conceded in the Imperial and local Legislative Councils as essential for our very existence, why not the same principles be conceded to in the case of other statutory bodies? Some of my hon. Friends may not like that I should make a request like this, but it is a thing which affects our very existence and so I request the hon the Chief Minister to bear this request in mind at the time of revising the Local Boards Act."

The House adjourned for lunch at 1-30 p.m.

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After Lunch (2-15 p.m.).

*Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" Sir, I wish I were called upon to speak some time later, for in making the few observations that I desire to make now, I have unfortunately to address empty benches on the other side. My remarks are mainly based on the budget speech of the hon. the Finance Member. Sir, our revenues have a very difficult task. They have to provide for a double diarchy, central and local on the one hand and transferred and reserved on the other. The realization of the former generally depends on an abundant or a normal monsoon but the retention of it this year at least, to a great extent, depends upon the passing of the 18*d.* ratio by the Delhi Assembly. The conditions existing at present all over the Presidency are gloomy. There is to be not only remission of taxation but also postponement of the kists. The hon. the Finance Member proposes to get over this difficulty by suggesting three methods. The first one which suggests itself to him is to utilize the savings made by the poor ryots during the last four normal years. The second one is to draw on the Famine Insurance Fund and the third is to request the various departments to adjust the development of their new programmes to the emergent need of providing labour for as many people as possible. Sir, these may be the usual official methods. My request to the hon. the Finance Member is to reverse the order, in fact to reserve the poor ryot for the last feed for he is the man who has to find money under Land Revenue and Excise. The last portion of the speech of the hon. the Finance Member ran thus: 'Given our own revenues, we can contemplate a noteworthy and continuous development of our ameliorative programmes.' A pious wish made by almost every Finance Member in all the presidencies affected by the Meston Award. Sir, it can only happen if the Assembly is going to pass the 18*d* ratio. I should like to know from the hon. Member what will be his remedy if the Assembly is going to throw out the 18*d*. ratio. Sir, unfortunately the hon. the Finance Member is not here to answer my question. My own apprehension is that his co templation will be one of eating grass or feeding on tails. The hon. the Finance Member in his magnificent budget speech has made some fine observations and if he acts on them he will save our Province from a financial crisis. The first of them is: 'to maintain our establishment on their existing scale will absorb much of our annual growth of revenues'. That is the first home truth. The next is: 'While they look to new worlds to conquer, we have to find the means to liquidate their victories'. This is another home truth. The third one is: 'The eye of each of our departments is larger than its digestive apparatus'. Certainly this abnormal development is always associated with a micro-cephalic head and the proper remedy is for the hon. the Finauce Member to supply each one of these departments with a blue pencil with brains. Sir, another desirable thing will be for a Russian eye-surgeon to transplant Chinese eye-balls on them. If that is difficult, it will be for the hon. the Finance Member to indent on the hon. the Minister for Excise for some opium for it has the rapid effect of contracting the pupil of the eye of any size. It has also the marvellous effect of restricting the field of vision. Sir, when we find that the income is uncertain and inelastic, the other remedy is to turn our attention to the expenditure. But unfortunately, under the new Reforms, one-third of the whole expenditure is non-votable. These reforms which are supposed to teach us self-Government, have in their seventh year now not taught us anything so far as self-Government

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is concerned. They have not taught us to compel the Government to revise their policy of expenditure or go in for more retrenchment in their topheavy system of administration. They have taught us to be extravagant; they have taught us to demand fat salaries. They have taught us to make tall and vague speeches; they have taught us to gather public addresses by the basketful. Everywhere the demand is for prohibition, for portable water-supply and for drainage. But the usual evasive and the only reply is 'will be considered when the funds permit'. Sir, the funds are all absorbed by the services. And the salaries drawn during the last six years by the Members of Government and their over-manned services would have been sufficient to provide many towns in the mufassal with portable water-supply. Sir, as things stand to-day, the Secretaries to the Ministers are doing the work of the Ministers while the latter are doing the talking in the country and drawing the salaries of Prime Ministers. If the Ministers mean business, they must assume a real control over the departments under them; they must overhaul their departments. They must realize that blocks of wood are out of place in a steel frame; a steel frame can only be worked by hard steel, what they call tool steel in America. Every mother office, whether it be at Newington, Nungumbakam, Egmore or Chepauk, has a grandmother office right down here in the Secretariat. What a wasteful duplication! Sir, there are now some officers who are drawing double pay. There are instances where special posts are created for redundant officers. Is that going to be the guiding policy of our Ministers? Do they want public support for this sort of work? Then again, Sir, we are having too many I.C.S. officers in Madras. Only yesterday or the day before, when the Council in Bombay demanded a reduction of their I.C.S. officers, the Finance Member there who happens to be an Indian reminded them that the number in Bombay was shorter than that in Madras by 48 and also pointed out to the Council that an I.C.S. officer in Bombay managed 900 square miles while his brother in Madras was only able to manage 800."

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—"Population?"

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—"I am sorry, Sir, that the population does not make much difference. But they are more rowdy down there (laughter), with their mill riots, hill tribes, Mahrattas, every one of whom is warlike and ready to attack anybody. Then again, Sir, they are spending four annas six pies for collecting a rupee on the revenue side. A wasteful expenditure which is to be criticised rather severely. Mr. Henry Ford himself will have to close down his business if his bill collectors demanded for them 28 per cent of his collections. Coming to the Police department again, I find it is progressively increasing in expenditure. Sir, after all, the people in our Presidency are quite docile and law-abiding more than in any other part of India. A ten per cent cut may conveniently be made here, but unfortunately the hon. the Law Member is not here. Coming to forests, before the Reforms, the forests were yielding 11 lakhs of surplus revenue to the general funds. Now, I find, Sir, that forests are feeding on themselves and the department seems to exist for the officers. There are certain other departments which can bear cuts of a similar amount, but I shall refer to them when the time comes for the Council to go into the demands in detail. As my time is limited, I will confine myself to only one item and that relating to His Excellency's body guards. This used to be much in evidence before and not after the arrival of the present Governor and it used to remind us of the grandeur, pomp and splendour of the Great Moghuls. It used to

have a riding school before where many of the engineering officers used to take their lessons. I think it does not exist now. There is no demand for riding nowadays. In fact, these are flying days. I think, Sir, it was the first Lord Goschen who once said: 'The thing needed above everything is cash.' Sir, if we cash the Guards, the money released can be utilized for building a Children's Hospital in Madras. Babies are dying here by the million and it will be a magnificient monument of His Excellency's generous act; that will also be an everlasting memorial of His Excellency's rule in this Presidency besides being a boon for the babies born and to be born in Madras."

2-30 p.m. *Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, as a Member of the Finance Committee of 1921-22 and one of the Members of the deputation I went with the hon. Mr. Moir, then the Finance Secretary, on a forlorn expedition to Delhi to plead for at least a reduction in the provincial contribution payable by Madras to the Central Government, but we returned without having got any reduction. It is a great satisfaction now after a period of five years to know that at least the provincial contribution has been remitted. Let me hope that the fears of the formidable lions whose roar the hon. the Finance Member is afraid of will be silenced and they will see the justice of our cause and not throw obstacles in the way of our retaining the concession extended to us by the Government of India. Owing to the failure of the monsoons the seasonal prospects are gloomy and a heavy fall in the revenue in the coming year with famine conditions has to be anticipated. The ray of hope that cheers and sustains us is this announcement of the remission of the provincial contribution. Sir, let me recall the circumstances under which that deputation went to Delhi. We anticipated a deficit of more than a crore of rupees and the Finance Committee was at its wit's end to find out the ways and means of meeting it. Very valuable schemes for which moneys were required were dropped and we were compelled to tax justice and we succeeded in getting the Council agree in taxing justice. We increased the stamp and court-fee revenue. We intended to tax amusements, but seeing that the yield from such a tax would be very little, we then abandoned it; but the second Council enabled local bodies by an enactment to tax amusements and the provincial Government got rid of the odium. We also then contemplated taxing betel leaves and tobacco. However some of these proposals for taxation had to be given up as the hope of getting some revenue to meet the deficit was not very cheerful. Now, Sir, we have this iniquitous impost remitted and we have the prospect of getting Rs. 165 lakhs for our own use now. What is it that we should do with it now? That is the question. There are two ways which suggested themselves to me and I would place them before the House. One is in doing justice and the other is in trying to see that the moral, intellectual and material advancement of the people of this Presidency is assured. In the matter of justice, I am sure it will not be denied by any section of this House that the justice we get is tardy and needlessly costly. (Hear, hear.) No doubt, there were some inequalities in the old Court Fees Act which to a certain extent the new Act has remedied. But the new Act has in many respects enhanced court-fees not for the purpose of reducing the inequalities but merely for the purpose of finding revenue. You will see from the budget presented that under the head of Justice and of Stamp revenue—when you take the Judicial stamps alone—there is a considerable surplus. Are we going to have revenue by taxing poor clients and making justice costly. (Hear, hear.) I think it will be the sheerest piece of justice—I use the

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term justice in its ordinary etymological sense—that we go back, if not the whole way, at least a great way to the original position. I remember the speech of the hon. the Law Member on the last occasion; I read it this morning and it is to the effect that certain portions of the present Court-Fees Act will be retained. By all means let it be so, but have a committee of people who are conversant with the matter so that the matter may be revised and the court-fees which press so very hard on the people now may be reduced to reasonable proportions. It would be really inadmissible and unreasonable to say that ex parte suits which take up not even five minutes time should be taxed as heavily as suits of declaratory or other character which consume weeks and months in their trial. In regard to the non-judicial stamps also, the matter deserves attention from various points of view. It is not merely from the ordinary rural transactions by way of sales and mortgages and other things which take place that we consent to impose an additional taxation and take money for our revenues. But look at another aspect of the matter. The stamps have unfortunately been assigned under law as a provincial revenue. The sooner the Council thinks of parting with it to the Central Government the better it would be in the interests of the administration of justice as also in the interests of commerce. Each Presidency has amended its stamp laws, and all sorts of difficulties have arisen. There is direct taxation as well as indirect taxation. The direct taxation is in the matter of enhancement, and the indirect taxation oftentimes comes in the matter of validating certain documents in other provinces and in this Presidency. There are also other difficulties in our own Presidency that must be set at rest. I speak from experience It would be a great act of convenience to the public if an arrangement is come to between the Native States and British India or British provinces for unifying the system of stamp receipts. Further there is considerable commercial intercourse between South India and the far east, our far east, that is, the Straits Settlements, Malaya Peninsula, Burma, Ceylon and other countries between which and our Presidency there is considerable trade going on. There must be one system of stamps by which the negotiable instruments at least may be easily held valid in one portion of the country and another. Especially, you will remember that a man may make an instrument anywhere but in the matter of endorsement which may take place in another country and then the instrument will have to go back to the place of its birth. All sorts of difficulties occur. While on this point of the administration of justice let me add a word with reference to the way in which the administration of the estates of insolvent debtors is now carried on. There is an official assignee and there are also official receivers in the mufassal. Some very big mercantile firms which through misfortune have failed, and when they go through the Insolvency court, it would be to the great advantage of all the parties concerned if the insolvent debtor and some of the principal creditors are consulted as to the personnel of the agency to administer the estate. Recently in the Ramnad district we went through a tale of misfortune. We saw how a very well known commercial house found themselves in difficulties. My friend the Zamindar of Devakottai will bear testimony to what I say, viz., that if the administration is in the hands of some gentlemen of the community who know the peculiarities of the trade, the administration will not only not suffer but will be to the largest interests of the largest number of the creditors concerned.

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"Then in the matter of the disposal of cases and other miscellaneous works I already mentioned that there has been also tardy administration of justice. No doubt considerable amount of attention has recently been paid to this matter and in the present year's Budget you will see that any number of additional sub-judges have been provided. There are as many sub-judges now I believe as there were district munsifs in the previous days. Probably the increase in the volume of litigation may account for it, but however it is a strange phenomenon. Something in the way of a careful arrangement in the matter of posting these judicial officers and the avoidance of frequent shiftings will go a great way towards remedying this delay.

"Then there is one subject about which there may be differences of opinion particularly in Madras, as I happen to be a member of the mufassal bar and cannot claim personal knowledge of the position in Madras. In the mufassal we have not derived as much advantage from the multitude of law reports and the number of cases which are promiscuously reported therein. I believe and I hope the mufassal members at least will corroborate me that this present-day enormous law reporting has not tended to a proper administration of justice either in quality or in quantity. I may say that our useful literature has not multiplied but the law reports have multiplied. This is a phenomenon. Mr. President, it is up to this Council to see that you place in the hands of the judiciary, the bench and the bar, facilities for correctly interpreting law. But to cite large number of cases upon facts and law and doubtful cases is not really helping them. I hope the hon. the Law Member will kindly look into this matter. There is another aspect of the present-day system which also may be referred to. Now frequently sub-judges are going as district judges and the number of district judges' places now held by the sub-judges has increased. It is necessary at least that the subordinate judges at the headquarters are always invested with sessions powers so that they may hear and dispose of sessions cases and so that at almost the end of their career, when they occupy a district court bench, they may not find that the sessions trial is really a burden to them. One more remark on this point and that is this, and I venture to state it with all hope though with some diffidence. The monopoly of legal talent is not exhausted at or confined only to the city of Madras and in the recruitment which may be made to the higher branches of the judicial service including the High Court bench let me hope that the mufassal will be remembered. I can assure you, Sir, Mr. President, that there are very many brilliant lawyers in the mufassal who are certainly in a position to do justice to any office that may be entrusted to them in the judicial line. (Hear, hear.)

"Now, Sir, going to the other matter I want to place before the House that a very decent fraction of this amount that we have now got may be devoted to the improvement of the moral, intellectual and material advancement of the people of this country. A number of Members of the House has spoken about excise. It is a Transferred subject but at the same time it is one of the most peculiar subjects because next to land revenue the excise revenue is the biggest. I hope the Reserved half of the Government who claim credit for their happy family traditions with the Transferred half will infuse sufficient courage in the new Ministers to think that the loss of revenue is nothing, but the improvement of the morality of the people is everything (Hear, hear) and that both halves will combine for finding the necessary

resources to recoup the loss and to carry on the administration. It should not be by the sale of poison and the degradation of human nature that any revenue should be raised even for an angelic purpose. Therefore I expect both halves of the Government to put their heads together, the Reserved half not thinking that it is not its duty. Let us hope that both the halves will combine and give effect to this principle unanimously. I do not think there can be two opinions on this point and I think it is unnecessary to elaborate further. On the question of education, it is said that a considerable improvement has taken place in the manner and method of instruction that are pursued and in the funds that are being allotted to education in progressive amounts. But let me put one question. What is the improvement in the national educational asset. I do not see that the increase in the number of people who have got education of all sorts and of every sort is alone a blessing to the country. But let me ask again what is the criterion upon which the advancement of the country in the domain of knowledge is to be gauged? How have we acquired knowledge? It is only by that acquisition and by that process of the acquisition of knowledge by which knowledge can be readily made available to the vast bulk of the people who may not have the blessing of English education that we can say we have a real advancement in the education of the country. What is the value of merely saying 'national education' unless you do not improve the nation's language, unless you do not improve the medium of the nation's language for the purpose of acquiring knowledge so that it may be the means by which diffusion of knowledge may be effected."

(Here the gong was sounded and the speaker resumed his seat.)

* Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" Mr. President, Sir, in these discussions on the budget it is the usual practice of this House to congratulate the Members on the Treasury Bench for their achievements, if any, or to find fault with them for their failures. In this respect as in several others perhaps we are following the practice of Parliaments in the free countries of the world.

" Where the legislature has really got control over the executive, where it can prescribe limits and impose restrictions on the activities of the executive, of course, these appreciations and criticisms have a meaning. But here the Legislature is not in a position to control the activities of the executive. On the other hand, the executive is in a position to impose its will upon the Legislature. Under these circumstances to follow the practice of Parliaments in this budget discussion is a mockery. To understand the false position of this House we have only to step outside and see the deep wrongs and injustices which the people are suffering from under this present system of Government. Those wrongs and injustices are being suffered by the people in spite of the best efforts of their representatives in this House year in and year out. To illustrate my point, I shall take one or two instances from the district of West Gōdāvari which I have the honour to represent in this House. The hon. the Finance Member in explaining in his budget speech the increase of revenue in 1925-26 was pleased to allude to the collection of inclusion fee in the districts of West Gōdāvari and Kistna amounting to 13 lakhs. Some amount was collected in the previous year and some in the year subsequent. The total collections in the district of West Gōdāvari alone must come to a big figure. This big figure of these large collections by way of inclusion fees amounting to several lakhs gives an idea of the extent of land newly included in the ayacut. But naturally

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when these lands were included people expected that irrigation facilities will be provided for these lands. But nothing of the kind was done. Even before these lands were included in the ayacut, irrigation facilities in the Gōdāvari Western delta were inadequate. The hon. the Law Member admitted even in the year 1924 in answer to a question put on the subject that the head sluice at Vidyeswaram did not allow adequate supply of water to Gōdāvari Western delta. The head sluice is the only source from which it receives its supply of water. That was even in the year 1924. To those inadequate facilities of irrigation a very heavy burden is imposed by adding large tracts to the ayacut. Of course, at the time when these collections were made they were told that further irrigation facilities and drainage improvements will be effected in consideration of the collection of these inclusion fees. The inclusion fee was collected at the rate of Rs. 25 per acre and the lands were newly included in the ayacut. But no such facilities were provided for. Of course, I searched the budget to see if any provision is made for additional irrigation facilities in the Western Gōdāvari delta. Nothing of the kind was done. On the other hand, even the normal usual maintenance charges and charges for the normal improvements and extensions have been cut down. I need not refer to the figures for the time before me is very short. And to add to these there is the unfortunate further circumstance, viz., these lands that are newly included in the ayacut have to pay what is known as the inducement fee of one rupee per acre. I must just explain it a bit. At the time of the last resettlement Government induced the ryots to register their lands under permanent wet. But where irrigation facilities were inadequate or wanting the people refused to get their lands registered as permanent wet and they said they would pay the usual water-rate whenever they took water or raised wet crops on their lands. Then Government classed these as optional wets. In these optional wet lands whenever the ryots raised wet crops Government was charging one rupee per acre extra known as inducement fee. Of course, this is the fee imposed on the option exercised by the ryot. This came to be known as the inducement fee because it was intended to serve as an inducement to get the ryots register their lands as wet. But recently, three years back most of these optional wet lands were included in the ayacut on the payment of the inclusion fee of Rs. 25 per acre. This was not willingly paid by the ryots. This was extracted from them as if it were payment of a penalty. There is no longer any option left. The lands were compulsorily registered as permanent wet in the ayacut. This inducement fee is still being collected though there is no option allowed to the ryot. This was brought to the notice of the Government in several ways but in spite of the efforts of the people and their representatives it has not been discontinued as yet. Of course, it is not this one rupee per acre alone that is collected. There is the usual water-rate and in addition Rs. 1-8-0 per acre which represents the interest on the inducement fee collected. The interest of Rs. 1-8-0 plus Re. 1 comes to Rs. 2-8-0 per acre and this is paid in addition to the usual water tax on these lands. Now, Sir, in view of these collections and in consideration of these extra penalties the Government never took care to provide additional facilities for these lands. To take a typical example I shall refer to one village—Kalavapudi. In this village before inclusion fee came in, only 400 acres were under wet ayacut. In addition to these 400, 1,200 acres were included in the ayacut and that single village had to pay an inducement fee of Rs. 25,000. Then, Sir, the irrigation fee was

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collected some three years ago but no irrigation facilities were provided. Such injustices as these are only possible under the present irresponsible system of Government. That is my theme. Of course, their irresponsibility is only equalled by their all comprehensive powers. They have got power to create offices and they exercise that power very freely. Once they have got that power they are very careful not to make their officers very few nor their salaries and pensions meagre. In this Gōdāvari Western delta they were appointing officers under some pretext or other. For the last nearly 15 or 20 years every year there was some extra establishment or other in this West Gōdāvari district. They were known as special duty establishments. There was the special duty establishment to investigate the Koleru project. Then there was the special duty establishment for remodelling the canal system. Then there is the special duty establishment at present working for localizing the second crop zone and so on. But, as a result of these special duty establishments nothing goodhas come so far. Of course, Government must have spent lakhs after lakhs on these establishments. But did their labours bring any good to the people ? Nothing, next to nothing I can say. Of course, they have worked for years and there were reports and reports and they were all lying idle in the Secretariat. And now, Sir, to illustrate how the welfare and interests of the masses of this country are cared for or promoted under this system of Government I shall just take another instance. I refer to the dealings of the Government with regard to the charitable association at Ellore known as the Young Men's Indian Association. It was doing immense social and educational service in the locality. It was started so long ago as 1904. It has got a good library which compares favourably with any of our libraries in the Andhra Desa. It has got about 8,000 volumes in its library. Its membership is 250 and the average daily attendance of visitors is 150. It was doing very good service to the people of the locality without distinction of caste or creed. All people are allowed to make use of the library including untouchables. Seeing the usefulness of the institution the municipality of Ellore came forward and offered a building site. It offered nearly 2,000 yards of building site under a permanent lease. Under the terms of the lease the association has to pay an annual rental of Rs. 100 to the municipality in addition to the amount of ground rent which will be fixed by Government. Of course the municipality as well as the association were under the belief that Government would fix the usual ground rent at the rate of Rs. 6-4-0 per acre as is generally done in the case of charitable and educational institutions. Under the belief that Government is going to fix only a nominal ground rent as a matter of course, Mr. Mothay Ganga Razu, the merchant prince of Ellore, came forward to raise a building on the site at his own cost."

(Here the gong sounded and the Member resumed his seat.)

* Mrs. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" Mr. President, I have to thank the hon. Finance Member for the Budget he has presented the other day to this Council, in which I note with pleasure the provisions made for new schemes of expenditure, both recurring and non-recurring, for the good of the people of this Presidency to the extent of 81 lakhs from the current revised revenues. 3 p.m.

" The items that give me most delight are those relating to the Medical Department, such as—

(i) the construction of a hostel for the lady students in the Madras Medical College ;

(ii) the remodelling of the General Hospital, Madras;

(iii) the construction of a new headquarters hospital at Madura;

(iv) a women and children hospital at Salem;

(v) the organization of a nose, throat, ear department in the Madras General Hospital.

"Regarding the last item, I beg to submit that the special work of this particular department may be brought into operation without any delay even from the 1st of April, instead of September as the special officer intended for that department has already returned from England and as there is also an urgent demand for that special kind of medical relief in this Presidency.

"Again, Sir, while I find provision made newly for the appointment of a lecturer on venereal diseases in the Medical College, Madras, I am unable to trace in the budget any provision for the appointment of a lady doctor to attend on the female patients that go to the General Hospital, who are in most cases the innocent victims of such diseases.

"Considering the very wide prevalence of venereal diseases in this country (as was discovered by Dr. Lees and Mrs. Rolfe, who have said that it is four times more prevalent here in India than in Great Britain and 50 to 60 per cent of child blindness and deafness and mental deficiency is attributable to this infection), considering the very serious, and far-reaching consequences of the disease on the individual, his family and on the race, I wish proper facilities are created without any further delay in every hospital for free, voluntary and confidential treatment of infected individuals, as it is done in the other civilized countries where as a result of such facilities, the disease has been reduced by 50 per cent within the last few years.

"Again, I feel sorry to note that no provision has been made in the budget for the construction and equipment of a special hospital in the City of Madras, which, as you all know, is a long needed and a much felt want.

"Sir, with a death rate of 300 per 1,000 infants in Madras as compared with 69 per 1,000 in England and Wales, in other words, 30 out of every 100 born in Madras never see their first birth day and what is still more deplorable with a higher morbidity rate behind, by which those that survive are weakened for life, which must necessarily lower the mental and physical power of the nation, as a whole; in the face of such unpleasant facts staring at our face, we have not yet seriously thought of creating a hospital for our children. By the by I may say we have a few hospitals for adult men and women, some for lunatics, some hospitals for animals too. None so far for the care and treatment of the most precious, and the most valuable of the human material, the very source of the nation, I mean our infants, when their need is not merely imaginary, but really urgent and great. I insist for a special hospital for children, because the child study is entirely a different one from that of the adult as was so very well expressed by no less an authority than Sir George Newman, the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health and of the Board of Education, London, "that child is not merely a diminutive adult requiring similar study to that of the adult. The child constitutes a different kind of problem in Physiology, in medical education and in practice and the subject should receive particular attention. The principles of physiology are the same in the dog, monkey and man; but the problems raised are different.'

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"Again Dr. Hutchisson, an eminent physician now living, under whom I had the pleasure of working for some time, and a specialist on diseases of children, admits that this is a subject which is apt to be neglected in the General Hospital for various reasons which I have no time to dilate upon now; hence, Sir, in the absence of special facilities, such as a special hospital for children, a specialized staff to teach and a sufficient clinical material to work upon, the graduates of our university know almost next to nothing of this most important branch of medicine. And no wondor, then, the infant mortality rate is not appreciably decreased, in spite of all our attempts in other directions.

"In other civilized countries, above all other Reforms, the recent advance in Pediatrics and the rational treatment of sick infants by the average physician, has contributed in no small measure to the reduction in infant mortality.

"From the press communiqué, dated 30th March 1926, Fort St. George, Local Self-Government Department, it will be seen that there was a proposal to build a hospital for children in commemoration of the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to Madras and some money was collected. Under the fear that the proposed number of 104 beds were too many for this city the scheme was given up and the money was diverted for the building of a tuberculosis children ward attached to the Tuberculosis Hospital.

"While I submit that tuberculosis is only one of the many diseases affecting children I am firmly of opinion that a General Hospital dealing with all diseases of children is an absolute necessity and from the intimate knowledge I possess of the mother and the children of this city that not 104 beds but even four times that number will be easily filled up, if only the hospital shows good work. Still if there is any such fear, let them make a modest beginning and start, say, with 40 or 50 beds.

"Sir, I have a word to say regarding the medical inspection of pupils in schools and colleges. No doubt, Government has made it compulsory in secondary schools for boys for which we feel thankful. But it should rapidly be extended to elementary pupils and girls as well. Again I feel, this being an important phase of preventive medicine that proper and adequate provision should be made for periodic regular medical inspection of school pupils both primary, secondary boys and girls. The inspection should be conducted by a specially trained staff and proper facilities for a successful inspection and treatment should be created by the employment of lady doctors for girl pupils whenever possible, and by the establishment of school clinics to make the system more effective, because experience of other countries in this direction has taught us that by looking after the health of the school-child, the onset of many a serious adult disease could be prevented, and thus the foundation for a healthy and vigorous manhood and womanhood of the country may be laid very early in life.

"I should also like very respectfully to invite the attention of the Members of the Government that the additions and improvements proposed in connexion with the Government Victoria Hospital for Women, to provide for more accommodation for patients and to make it an up-to-date teaching institution for women students attending the hospital do not find a place in the budget for the year 1927-28. From the press communiqué from the

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Local Self-Government (the Public Health Department, January 1926), it will be seen that the scheme for the improvement of the Victoria Gosha Hospital for Women was placed before the Finance Committee and I do not see any reason why it has not found a place in the budget for the year 1927-28 in spite of the very urgent nature of the work.

"One word on adult female education in this Presidency will not be out of place. Considering the low percentage of literacy among women and a still lower percentage of the girls attending the secondary schools (only 13 girls out of 10,000 receive the benefit of secondary education), I request the Government to encourage the opening of more secondary schools for girls in the mufassal, wherever possible. Again, with the spread of enlightenment and education among the women of this presidency, private philanthropic institutions manned by women to help destitute women and widows of over school age and to train them so as to enable them to earn their livelihood as vocational teachers, as nurses, as music and vernacular teachers, such as the Women's Home of Service, Mylapore, and Sri Sarada Niketanam of Guntur in existence, and more are likely to come into existence. So, I respectfully urge on the attention of the Government that such instutitions should be made eligible for Government grants even though they do not conform to the prescribed educational rules, if the Government is convinced of the usefulness of such institutions. I feel that only through such a liberal policy adopted by Government in the matter of female education the stigma of only 2 per cent female literacy will be removed without taxing too much the purse of the Government. Before I finish I very humbly submit that the Members of the Government responsible for all the departments will make a ready and willing response to all the just demands made in my speech."

*Mr. C. Gopala Menon:—"Mr. President, Sir, when we consider the budget estimate for 1926-27 we now realize that from the revised estimate of the same year we were erring unduly on the side of caution. The revenue was under-estimated by Rs. 20 lakhs and the expenditure was over-estimated by Rs. 48 lakhs. These are not very narrow margins in a Presidency budget. The result is that we have got a surplus of 36·22 lakhs which we did not know how to utilize. I do not know if the hon. the Finance Member has a similar surprise for us up his sleeve with regard to his figures for 1927-28. There seems to be much more than appears on the face of the budget. For I find in 1926-27 we budgeted for a deficit of Rs. 31 lakhs, whereas we had a surplus of Rs. 36 lakhs. In 1925-26 we budgeted for a revenue surplus of Rs. 2 lakhs, and the budget estimates show Rs. 98 lakhs, while the actuals show a surplus of 98·37 lakhs. This is on account of want of a proper and systematic policy in the matter of budgeting.

"With regard to the revised estimate for the current year, I should like to add that I am not prepared to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member in the manner with which he has arrived at a surplus. During the course of the last budget debate, we congratulated ourselves on the progressive policy we pursued by asking for an allotment of Rs. 70 lakhs for the departments of public utility, and to-day we find that the lapses in those departments such as Civil Works, Education, Public Health and Industries are very heavy and are extremely disappointing. I find a lapse of Rs. 21·5 lakhs in Civil Works, Rs. 6·70 lakhs in Education, Rs. 4·54 in Public

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Health and nearly a lakh of rupees in Industries, and the reason given by the hon. the Finance Member for this heavy lapse in Civil Works is that there is no progress made in opening schools by local bodies and that they relate to buildings for which grants were provided. If the local bodies are unable to find 50 per cent of the money, that is a sum which is equal to the grant which the Government propose to give, and if they cannot utilize all the grants, why not change the policy? When we have got enough money, why not reduce the proportion to be contributed by the local bodies to one-third, the Government paying the remaining two-thirds? That is the only way of helping the local bodies. Of course, we want economy in public expenditure, but economy should be consistent with the efficiency of departments of public utility.

" Another thing which I have to bring to the notice of the hon. the Finance Member is the restricting of our expenditure in proportion to the revenue realized. Since the Reform days, that is 1920–21, our revenue has grown from 1,560 lakhs to 1,654 lakhs, an increase of only 94 lakhs, while the expenditure has risen from 1,130 lakhs to 1,724 lakhs, that is, an increase of 594 lakhs. It may be argued that if we want to enjoy the benefits of democratic principles of administration, the country has to incur an abnormally high expenditure. But I may submit that this increase in expenditure is not proportionate to the revenue realized. 3-15 p.m.

" Now, turning to the revenue side and looking back on the year that has immediately gone by, there are particular departments in which the increase of revenue must alarm the hon. Members of this House. I refer to the excise revenue. This does not indicate the policy adumbrated by the party in power until recently. In spite of the preventive measures adopted by the ex-Excise Minister, this increase in the excise revenue is demoralizing in its effect in this way, that we learn to depend on the excise revenue as an integral part of the budget; and the day of total prohibition, which is our goal, can never be reached at this rate. It is a matter of consolation to learn that the policy of the party in power is prohibition by definite stages. That was what the hon. the Development Minister said at Rajahmundry. But this is in contrast to the pronouncement of the hon. Minister for Excise. He pointed out that the difficulty of achieving prohibition lies in the fact that the people of the country have not carried on propaganda against the traffic in liquor. He said that in the United States prohibition has been achieved by people working against drink traffic in 70 years' time, and unless the people here carried on propaganda work against drink it will be difficult for the Minister to adopt any prohibition policy. He also mentioned that traffic in drink was a bad thing and nothing would deter him from adopting a policy of prohibition. The question is if he finds that the traffic in liquor is bad, why should he tolerate the revenue derived from that source? I hope, I may, in this connexion, point out what Mr. Pradhan, the Excise Minister in the Bombay Legislative Council, said, ' that we will go on with the policy of prohibition as fast as possible in order to reach the goal at as early a date as possible'. There is another department in which revenue is equally increasing—I mean the Medical—which is due to the policy of charging such high fees for medical treatment as to scare away people from resorting to it.

" The departments which are most disappointing are the departments of Agriculture and Industries. The administration report of the department

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of Agriculture speaks in glowing terms, and with the progress and extension in demonstration farms, breeding stations and depots for seeds and lint, this department has not proved to be a revenue earning department. In the Department of Industries which is regarded as a revenue earning department, the revenue has declined from 13·71 lakhs in 1924 to 7·73 lakhs in the current year. One melancholy feature of this department is the misfortune that has invariably overtaken all its commercial undertakings without exception, so that while the profits were 2·73 lakhs in 1925–26 the profits in 1927–28 are expected to be no more than about a lakh. We hope and trust that the new Minister will devote his attention to the situation, to the work of pioneering of industries in particular which have not till now been run on right lines on account of the overhead charges and want of proper business propaganda. I hope that he will so run them as to make them useful to the people of the country, so as to induce them to set up small enterprises which may be self-supporting. One argument that may be brought forward is that the state industries compete with private enterprise. That argument can hold good only if the Government refuse to hand over the paying industries when the offer comes for them from the public.

"With regard to fixing a standard of comparison in the revenue, the hon. the Finance Member has pointed out certain difficulties. There are four factors mentioned, the amount of taxation, variations in the accounts which have been going on for some time past, transferring minor items to major items and major items to minor and so on. In certain cases gross receipts of expenditure are separately taken into account instead of net receipts. In other cases the gross receipts and net receipts alone are shown. These are handicaps mentioned, but no remedy has been suggested. I would ask, why not make all the changes in one year and not deviate from it? If that could be done, I suppose we could start with a clean slate and probably a fixed standard of comparison may be arrived at.

"With regard to the surplus that we have at our disposal, I find that taking the revenue balances of 1925–26 and 1927–28, there is a revenue balance of 134 lakhs in two years, and deducting 70 lakhs deficit for 1927–28, we have a balance of 64 lakhs. And suppose we get a remission of 165 lakhs which we expect, there will be 229 lakhs at our disposal. All that we require is a revenue balance of 50 lakhs for emergency purposes. The question is what this House and the Treasury Bench, if this 165 lakhs is obtained, are going to do with it? I would suggest that a forward policy in excise should be adopted and a reserve put by against anticipated reduction in that revenue. For this, of course, we have the example in the Legislative Assembly last year when it reserved a certain sum for geological survey. In the same way we can keep a reserve against any deficits by adopting a forward policy in excise prohibition. I would suggest that this anticipated revenue may be kept as revenue reserve . . ."

* Mr. K. Madhavan Nayar :—"Mr. President, Sir, the reforms have granted two boons to India—(1) increased taxation, and (2) increased expenditure. As year after year passes, as budget after budget is presented by the Finance Members, the despair is growing upon the people of this Presidency that there is no salvation for them from the heavy taxation, no escape from the heavy expenditure. Of course, the Central Government is responsible for a good portion of the boons, e.g., postage and salt duty. But we are also in our own limited way responsible for the increase in the stamp duty and

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increase in the court-fee and registration charges, besides various taxes under the Local Boards Act and the education cess. The burden has become so heavy that year after year people look to the first week of March to find some ray of hope in the statement of the Finance Member, but, alas! to turn back in despair because he assumes a particularly gloomy form on that day. True the hon. the Finance Member is able to convert a deficit budget into a surplus budget, this year, on account of the opening balance. Even then he was able to give us no consolation because he says that the increase in the incremental scales, debt charges and pensions would eat up the surplus. Of course the Finance Member is hopeful as the budget presented in the Assembly shows that we are likely to get 165 lakhs by way of relief in our contribution. But what the Finance Member says is that the remission may be utilized for the development of ameliorative programmes. There is nothing said about the remission of taxes. We are thankful for small mercies. But, the Finance Member imposes a very heavy condition on this remission of 165 lakhs because he wants our representatives in the Assembly to behave like good boys, i.e., like bad boys from the nationalistic point of view. I submit that for ameliorative programmes a certain portion of the remission may be utilized. But the very heavy fine on litigants who want to enforce their rights in a court of law—that heavy fine was imposed by this House under exceptional circumstances—must be removed, and as, Sir A. P. Patro has said one of the first thing that the Government has to do is to remit that immoral tax. I remember the answer given by the hon. the Law Member last time, that there was no immoral imposition of tax because the Department of Law and Justice was working at a deficit of 16 lakhs. Was it working at a deficit before the tax was imposed? To arrive at this deficit he took into account 58 lakhs in the district administration. I do not know if the 58 lakhs included the pay of the Collectors and other officers and of His Excellency the Governor also who has also to do something with the administration of justice. I hope the hon. the Law Member will enlighten us on the point. But it is startling to hear that the administration of law and justice was working at a deficit.

"Now I am on the subject I wish to ask whether justice has been done to the copyists of the Judicial service that have been clamouring for being taken into the regular line for a very long time.

"The Government have been saying to the repeated interpellations in this Council that they are considering the question, that they are awaiting the reports from the High Court, from the Board of Revenue and so on. 'Will they expedite the report' was the question put by one Member at one time and they promised that it would be expedited. I wish to know what has been done in that matter. Is the Government going to take them into the regular line and make their position better than what it is now? Except a pittance of Rs. 14-8-0 per month, they do not get any substantial benefit. They have no pension and no bonus during vacation. That is the position. It certainly requires favourable consideration. 3-30 p.m.

"I come next to another department that is connected with the Transferred half. Any sum that is available should be utilized to relieve the distress of teachers in the aided schools. The Educational Council—I do not know what happens in the other parts of the presidency,—at any rate in Malabar gives to the teachers a grant ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10. They get it at the end of the year and some times two or three months after the

close of the year. In the meanwhile they run into debt in anticipation of the grant coming to their hands at the end of the year. At the end they are told that they are not to get even this Rs. 5 or Rs. 10, but only 40 per cent or 50 per cent of what they were expecting to get viz., Rs. 2½ in the place of Rs. 5 and Rs. 5 in the place of Rs. 10. That is the position of people with whom is entrusted the sacred duty of rearing up our future citizens. I hope that the Transferred department will see to it that these teachers are relieved and given something to live upon and not left to starve as they are now doing The cases of the lower services of the teachers in the taluk boards also have to be considered by the Government. So, what I submit is that remission of taxation and the improvement of the condition of the subordinate services are matters which the hon. the Finance Member will have to bestow his attention upon in utilizing the amount that will be remitted by the Government of India.

" Another point that I want to mention is the case of Mr. M. P. Narayana Menon. I wanted to speak something about the non-release of Narayana Menon in spite of the unanimous voice of the people of Malabar and the almost unanimous vote of this House. I do not know whether time will permit me to do so. Therefore, I shall refer to another point before I deal with his release, I mean the treatment meted out to him in the Penitentiary. I have no complaint at all against the jail officers, but I have a very serious complaint against the Inspector-General of Prisons. I submit, Sir, that Mr. Narayana Menon, when he was admitted into the Coimbatore jail in 1921, was in possession of robust health and in full vigour and was weighing 142 pounds. He belongs to a very respectable family in Malabar and was used to high living. Therefore, the ordinary diet in the jail did not suit him. I do not, for a moment, say that a prisoner, convicted by a court of law is entitled to preferential treatment. But when doctors advise that a particular prisoner ought to be given a particular form of diet, is it not the duty of the jail authorities to give him that diet?

" Now, when Mr. Narayana Menon was taken to the Coimbatore jail in 1921, as I mentioned just now, he was weighing 142 pounds. He was taken to the Penitentiary in 1923 and then he was weighing only 127 pounds. During the ten days that he was in the Penitentiary, because of the change in the diet,—probably better diet was given in the Coimbatore jail--his weight was reduced by 10 pounds. Major Forsyth examined him and found that the diet that was being given to him in jail was certainly not suitable to him and he prescribed some milk and meat to be given to him daily. The Inspector-General took Major Forsyth to task for making the recommendation and sent back the report aking the Major why he made that recommendation. The Major gave some reason and there the matter ended. Then came another Superintendent and he made some change in the diet off and on. In the early part of 1926, Mr. Narayana Menon weighed 127 pounds. Then the improved diet was stopped to him altogether. As the result of the stoppage of the improved diet, by December 1926 Narayana Menon's weight came down to 103 pounds and he was reduced to a mere skeleton. Fortunately for him, Dr. Pandalai, the Presidency Magistrate, who is an official visitor to that jail, finding his condition alarming, wrote a strong minute in the Visitors Note Book to the effect that Narayana Menon requires immediate examination by medical authorities. He desired also that Narayana Menon should be taken to the General Hospital. The

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Inspector-General of Prisons did not like that course, but he was good enough to send the Senior Physician of the General Hospital to examine him in the Penitentiary. The Senior Physician went to the Penitentiary and examined him. He said that Narayana Menon was not suffering from any disease, but certainly required improved diet. Two pounds of milk and meat or fish was prescribed for him. That was being given till 1st March. Uniformly you will see that doctors have been advising an improved diet being given to him. But the Inspector-General of Prisons was having an eye upon Narayana Menon since he was taken to the Penitentiary. As soon as he improves in health a little which he did, rising from 103 pounds to 120, in three months, the diet was again stopped. But the refusal of improved diet is certainly not the only point that I want to emphasise upon. There is a more barbarous treatment accorded to him by the jail authorities, that is, the prevention of Narayana Menon from being treated for a complaint he has been suffering from. He suffers from a throat complaint. On examination in the General Hospital, it was found that he had to undergo X-Ray treatment for the disease. He was sent to the General Hospital by the Superintendent of the Penitentiary for ten days. When this reached the ears of the Inspector-General, he at once comes down: 'No, No. Why is he sent to the General Hospital without my permission'. Then the Superintendent of the Penitentiary applied for but was denied the permission—a permission granted to several other prisoners. Thus, Mr. Narayana Menon was denied this treatment. These are facts which could not be believed but which after I have made careful enquiries I have come to know. These things are done under the very nose of the Home Member and I appeal to the hon. Member and the Government to see that justice is done. Even though a man is convicted, so long as he is a guest of His Majesty, it is your duty to see that proper diet is given to him and that he is not left to die by a disease which doctors have certified that he is suffering from."

*Mr. D. Thomas :—" Mr. President, Sir, let me add my meed of praise to the hon. the Finance Member for the budget which he has presented to us. The times are difficult and the seasons have almost conspired against us. Yet, in spite of these handicaps, he has given us a budget which is full of hope and promise. I shall now pass on to one or two aspects in the administration of criminal justice in the mufassal districts. In that subject, the foremost attention will naturally be claimed by the question of the separation of judicial and executive functions. (Mr. S. Satyamurti : 'Hear, hear.') This matter has, on several occasions, come up for discussion both by way of interpellations and resolutions. A resolution was solemnly passed by this Council recommending this much-needed reform. All Members of the House are agreed on the desirability of this reform. In the discussion of this subject, in the course of the last year's budget, the hon. the Law Member adopted an optimistic tone and said that the matter of the reform would very soon come into practical shape. More than a year has elapsed since then and yet we are exactly in the same position. Let me now press that the Government of India should give it their attention shortly or allow us to proceed with our own scheme for the criminal administration of our own province.

"Next, I shall pass on to a subject which is of even greater importance, viz., the trial by jury in the mufassal courts. The grave criminal cases relating

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to property are tried in the mufassal courts by a sessions judge with the aid of jurors. So far as the recruitment of jurors is concerned, it seems to depend upon property qualification, so that it happens in very intricate cases, men who do not know to sign their own names are constituted as juries and are asked to try, weigh and decide on nice probabilities and inferences. If, Sir, the evil is confined to the mistaken verdict of ignorant jury, then at least we might be content to put up with it. But, Sir, the evil does not stop there. The evil, as it is, has assumed much greater proportions than that. Well, Sir, I speak with special reference to the conditions in my district. I have got experience of it for the last fifteen years and I say, Sir, it is an open secret that in almost 50 per cent of the cases the verdict of the jury is not above suspicion. I understand, Sir, the same state of affairs more or less prevails in the adjoining districts also. A rich man buys off justice and escapes scotfree. The arm of the law is indeed too short to get at the rich man, if it is a case of trial by a jury. Well, on the other hand, the poor and innocent is sometimes made a victim at the altar of the jury system in our province. Those who have first-hand experience of the jury, with its open trial in daylight in the court-house, examination of witnesses, cross-examination, arguments and summing up by the judge, know that all that is mere farce and that the real struggle as to the way in which the verdict is to be returned will take place under the covering darkness of night. (Laughter.) It is impossible to tolerate such a scandal. I need hardly impress upon this House how important the purity and efficiency of criminal justice is. If the purity of criminal administration is poisoned, I say, our civic life is poisoned at the very root, the fountain head. I would therefore impress upon the hon. the Law Member whom we look up to as 'a bright particular' star of the legal firmament (laughter) the necessity for looking into this matter very urgently and redress this crying evil.

"I now proceed, Sir, to refer to certain defects and disabilities under which my community (the Indian Christian community) is now labouring. There is a line in Hamlet in which it is said : 'You cannot speak of reason to the Dane and lose your voice.' I am confident, Sir, that if I demand justice and fairplay for my community, my demand will not fail to obtain a hearing in this House. In pleading for justice to my community, let me not be understood to advocate a narrow communal outlook. (Voices : 'Hear, hear'.) I say any injustice or wrong suffered by an individual community is a national injustice and it is, therefore, to the national interest that the injustice should be redressed and that the wrong should be righted.

3-45 p.m. "Sir, the Indian Christian community is a fairly well-educated community. But I do not know, Sir, that to become educated is to commit the offence for which there is no forgiveness. The Madras Government seem to think otherwise. Fortunately for us, the pains and penalties which the Madras Government impose on the Indian Christian community are not included in the provisions of the Indian Penal Code or any other penal law. But they are to be found in the Madras Educational Rules. The Madras Government rightly and justly enough have classified the poor people living in this province. They have classified certain communities as depressed communities and some other communities as backward classes. If students are certified to be too poor to pay the school fees, and if they belong to backward communities, in the case of these students, facilities are afforded in the

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matter of concession of school fees. If it so happens that the members of the backward classes belong to the Christian faith, these concessions and advantages are denied to them. Sir, conversion to the Christian faith does not translate people to an easy economic paradise. The struggle for livelihood and the difficulty of maintenance is as great among them as they are in the case of other backward communities.

"I do not see any reason why any invidious distinction should be made in the case of Indian Christians. The people in this country are noted for religious toleration. The spirit of charity is the very life spirit of the people of our country and I say, Sir, that the Madras Government should not impair this spirit of charity by introducing distinctions and differences between one community and another. I give an instance, viz., that of the students of training schools. Hindu and Muhammadan lady students of training colleges are allowed a stipend of Rs. 20 per mensem. When it comes to a question of Christian girls who are reading in those institutions the stipend given to them is cut down by Rs. 5. Why this difference? I take it that the standard of living is practically the same for Christian, Muhammadan and Hindu ladies and I see, therefore, no point at all in treating the Indian Christian girls differently from the Hindu and Muhammadan students reading in the same institutions. Sir, I would invite the early attention of the hon. the Minister for Education to these points and request him to remove the disabilities we are labouring under, thereby vindicating justice and fair play to all communities."

* Nattam Dubash KHADIR SAHIB SYED IBRAHIM SAHIB Bahadur :— " Mr. President, Sir, as usual, the budget is a deficit budget and its deficit character has no terrors for me. The administration should go on and we must have the courage to face the deficit this year. I would, however, wish that more provisions were made for nation-building and public welfare departments.

" But certain features of the administration and certain aspects of the policy pursued by the Government in the matter of working the reforms in the Presidency call for rather severe criticism. We were told that the people of the country were given real power to be exercised through this Council. Have the people been given any such power as it is often advertised? Let alone the vast majority of the adults of the country who remain without votes. Even the scanty voters recognized by the Reform scheme have been denied the free exercise of their franchise by the unchivalrousness and pettiness of the Government. The ban on Mr. Yaqub Hasan persisted in by the Government has deprived the Muslim community of its privilege of electing its best representative to a place in the Council. In spite of the attitude of the Government, the Muslims of the Presidency will for ever cherish with gratitude and love the immense services he has rendered to them for well nigh a generation and if he is not here to-day to lead the popular party of this House, he still undoubtedly is the leader of his people. May be his leadership outside this Council would be to the greater benefit of the community. However, the Muslim community can never forget the fact that animosity and jealousy of a particular political caucus that once had powerful influence with the powers that be, but now happily as dead as Queen Anne though individuals belonging to that caucus still hold powerful and influential positions have been the cause of the ban on Mr. Yaqub Hssan. (Mr. S. Satyamurti : ' Hear, hear.') It is to be hoped that the

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Government will realize the strength of popular opinion in the matter and do justice to Mr. Yaqub Hasan at the earliest opportunity and thereby do justice to themselves, the Muslim community and, may I add, the Reforms.

"Another aspect which calls for the severest condemnation is the attitude of the Government towards the Mappillas. The record of the Britisher's connexion with this country has always been marked with the notorious relationship of the Britisher and the Mappilla. That outrageous piece of legislation known as the Mappilla Outrages Act is itself a sufficient proof of the indomitable courage, religious zeal and national pride of the Mappillas and the vindictive, provoking and barbarous methods by which the pre-reform British Government in India successfully attempted to rule the country. Even before that Act the Mappilla had already been given a bad name; an opportunity was only awaited to hang him. That opportunity was afforded by the last rebellion. What with the zulum of the ordinary and special police, what with the zulum of the military and what with the oddities of the special magistracy, the Mappillas were harassed and massacred, convicted and sentenced for long terms in thousands. This recital does not mean that I am an apologist of the last Mappilla rebellion. I, in common with the other hon. Members of this Council and the general public, condemn in the strongest terms the foolishness of the Mappillas. But much water has already flown under the causeway of the rebellion. Peace has been somehow restored and that as early as 1920. The most cordial relation now exists between the Mappillas and the other sister communities in Malabar. In fact evidences of complete concord and fraternity are not wanting. And it is already high time that the wounds caused by Governmental ruthlessness should be healed. Some time back this Council recommended for the release of the Mappillas convicted of rebellion offences excluding offences against life. But that recommendation was treated with scant courtesy. Instead of releasing the Mappilla convicts on the lines of the recommendation, the Government are budgeting thousands and thousands of rupees for their maintenance in jails. I assure the Government that in this way they cannot secure the allegiance of the Mappillas to the Crown. As if this attitude is not of itself sufficient to sorely try the feelings of the Mappillas, the Government are pursuing the very dangerous and portentous policy of transporting innocent women and children of the Mappilla community to the Andamans under their pet scheme for the exploitation of the islands. The unsuitability of the islands for human habitation—the habitation of even condemned criminals—the moral degradation of the people who live there, the absence of any law and order in that 'Happy valley' and the myth of voluntary colonization have all been more than once discussed in this House and the whole scheme has been condemned practically unanimously in assured terms and yet the Government sphinx-like adopt their own cynical attitude and perhaps believe in irresponsiveness to popular opinion. By persisting in this scheme, the Government not only intends to depopulate Malabar of its Mappilla population and exploit their excellent labour for fertilizing the Andamans for the benefit of some European planter or other, but now it is evident that the fears many of us had that the carrying out of the scheme will result in converting all these exiles into Christians are being realized. The Government is sending members of the Salvation Army to the Andamans as officers like tahsildars. Is there any alternative left to the illiterate, ignorant and helpless men, women and children in exile put in charge of such men but to succumb to their persuasion and become Christians? Thus as a result of the scheme, Mappillas

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are not only decoyed from Malabar but now they are to be enticed away from Islam. The introduction of the Salvation Army tahsildars will have the result of converting not only the Muslims but also the Hindu convicts to Christianity. I take this opportunity of warning the Government betimes that that is a giddy and dangerous ride and that more rebellions are manufactured by such dare devil policy than by innumerable speeches of agitators. The Siberian policy of the Government of clapping up thousands of Mappillas in prisons and deporting innocent and free Mappilla women and children to that Hades in the Bay of Bengal cannot certainly bring peace to Malabar though it may bring about peace of a kind desolation. The real trouble with Malabar is not the Mappilla, but it is purely agrarian.

"The modest endeavour of that kind-hearted Member of this House, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Krishnan Nayar, to alleviate the woes of the Malayalis in the form of his Tenancy Bill was scotched by the Government, though passed by the House by a large majority. When labour is in demand to exploit the fertile soil of Malabar itself the Mappillas, most of whom belong to labouring classes, are clapped in jails and their women and children are carried away to the Andamans to build in that tract of the globe Sir Arthur Knapp's Modern Rome. Can I not then characterize the policy of the Government as the maddest of mad policies? For goodness sake let the Government retrace their steps. Let them release the Mappillas now rotting in jail. Let them abandon the policy of Romulus to build a Rome in the islands of the Andamans. Let them adopt comprehensive schemes of Mappilla education, Tenancy reform, agricultural and industrial improvements or, in other words, let the Government hear the voice of reason.

"Another point which I would wish to impress upon the Government is their attitude towards the legitimate aspirations of the Muslims of the Province for some share in the higher ranks of public service. For years the agitation has been going on in and outside this Council for the representation of Muslims on the bench of the High Court. And the Government have many times come forward with their usual lame excuses that efficiency of public service could not be sacrificed in the interest of communal representation and suitable Muslims are not available to fill the office and that the Government would sympathetically consider the claims of Muslims when permanent vacancies occur. Vacancies have recently occurred and the sympathy of the Government for Muslim aspiration has not materialized. While I entirely agree with the Government that efficiency of public service should on no account be sacrificed, I refuse to believe and the Muslims do refuse to believe that a Muslim or two worthy of the high office could not be found in the year of grace 1927, now more than six years after the first and the last Muslim occupied a seat on the bench of the High Court. An ethnological survey of the present judges of the High Court can easily show that considerations other than pure efficiency have weighed with the Government in making their appointments. Let us all strive for efficiency. But to be clear of cant, let not the theory of efficiency be trotted out to hide the Government's inclination or bias to patronize particular individuals or communities in preference to Muslims.

"One word more. In our absorption in the political chess-game, let us not forget the ryot. Famine threatens this year everywhere in the Presidency. Provision for adequate measures of famine relief will have to be

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made. Remission of kist will have to be granted on a liberal scale. The deficit character of the budget ought not to be used as an excuse for any half-heartedness on the part of the Government in alleviating the sufferings of the riots this year.

"In conclusion, I most respectfully appeal to the Government to be more responsive to public opinion."

4 p.m. * Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, I have been returned to this Council by a people who have striven, who have fought and who have struggled in a peaceful spirit to gain freedom and to become masters of their own houses and thereby have extracted from an unwilling bureaucratic system of Government the promise of an apple, an apple dangling before their eyes, of democracy. I desire to examine this budget, Sir, from the point of view of what democracy we have achieved through all these six years.

"I desire to draw the particular attention of the Members of the Treasury Bench to the necessity of passing, if they are capable of passing, if they are humane enough to do it, an ordinance of self-denial and sending an ultimatum to the Government in England that Provincial autonomy should be forthwith given to this province, at any rate. I examine this budget as representing democracy, and I ask if it is real democracy for the Chief Executive of a Province—I claim the Governor in this matter as the Chief Executive, because he is nothing else when he appoints his own Ministers—to appoint the Ministers and if it is consistent with democracy to appoint such Ministers from a party which was no party at the elections, to appoint Ministers from a party which has no majority in this House. I do not attack merely Ministers; I attack the whole system of Government. Diarchy contains both Ministers and Executive Council Members, and therefore, it need not be taken that I am attacking merely the Ministers. I am attacking both sides of the Government, and I desire that this budget should be examined from the point of view of democracy.

"I have closely examined the figures. The hon. the Finance Member has been at very great pains to prove to us that the Development Departments had got a great deal of money within the last six years; but, may I ask him, what right of voting I have got in this House? The right of voting so far as the expenditure goes--I cannot go into the details of the figures, because I have not much time before me--does not extend to the non-voted portion of the budget which comes to 25 per cent of the total expenditure; and we have no effective control or effective vote over 75 per cent of the expenditure, because it is reserved. From the ex-Ministerial friends we heard that they were afraid of the Governor's power of certification and therefore they dropped a certain piece of legislation; and the Governor's power of certification is always there, and therefore this 75 per cent of expenditure is certainly not under our control. Then, Sir, what further right have we over the small amount that we have to vote? What is it that we are allowed to vote for in any effective manner? The new schemes that are talked of in this budget amount to 81·79 lakhs. Out of such huge expenditure, the effective vote that we can possibly exercise under the present diarchical institution is this: that we can exercise our vote up to 81·79 lakhs, and that too, where the Reserved departments are concerned, we have to suffer certification in the end. Now, Sir, I have taken the figures which the hon. the Finance Member has supplied us with.

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He found very great difficulty in finding out a standard of revenue and expenditure from the figures that we have, but still I must go on the figures that he has given us. I find, Sir, that during the last six years the cost that we have had to bear on account of the pay of officers, establishments, allowances, contingencies and supplies and services has increased very heavily, and it was in 1925-26, 13 per cent more than what it was in 1920-21. Counting at 2½ per cent per year, I think the 1927-28 budget should show not less than 18 per cent increase. As for the Revenue side, if you examine it, you will find that there is 5 per cent difference between 1920-21 and 1925-26. If you take the 1927-28 budget, I am sure it will be much less than 5 per cent increase. In ordinary human, domestic, economic circles, one would feel that the householder should manage the house within the revenue that he gets and that he should not live upon windfalls or on loans. How does the Government get that part of the expenditure which is an excess over the percentage that I have given? Certainly the Government must be living upon windfalls. It is living, as a matter of fact, upon windfalls. No Government has a right to depend upon such windfalls.

"Now, Sir, I ask whether we have had any economic advantage out of this democracy. What is the economic advantage that we are getting and how can we get it? How can economic budgeting be possible? It can be possible not by cutting at the lower rungs; it seems it is easy to cut at them; it is easy to cut at the karnams, it is easy to cut at the teachers, and it is easy to cut at others; but it is very difficult to cut at the higher officials. I do not know why my friend, the hon the Finance Member, should not serve us on Rs. 1,000 a month. If I had the privilege, if this House had Provincial autonomy, I should have asked him, I should have even bargained with him for Rs. 1,000. I have not got that right, and as long as I have not got that right, I cannot live within my means. This is a system of Government which must be condemned by any human being. I have no quarrel with any gentleman as a gentleman. I know, for instance, that Mr. Marjoribanks is a gentleman. I have no quarrel with him as Mr. Marjoribanks, but I have quarrel with him as a Revenue Member, as forming part of the Government. If I had the right to appoint him, if I had the right to bargain with him, I merely would have said 'You cannot be so callous'. I feel, Sir, that by being a part of bureaucracy, very good gentlemen who would otherwise be human (laughter) become so callous, as my friend Mr. Marjoribanks has. Certainly I feel, Sir, that Mr. Majoribanks has become callous in the matter of the famine business, and I know that people are suffering very heavily on account of heavy and pressing collections. To turn to the economic conditions in our country, I have merely to say that we have to deal with the petty dealer, the petty cultivator and the petty farmer who form the backbone of this country. What is their lot? How are they taxed? What are the taxes in other countries? Land tax and Consumptive tax—that is how the Taxation Enquiry Committee makes the classification,

Including these two classifications,
in the United Kingdom it comes to 28·34,
in Japan it is 35·05,
in Australia which is an agricultural colony of the British Empire, it is 41·44,
in India it is 66 per cent.

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"Fancy, Sir, 66 per cent, of the revenue is directly taken from the poor ryot and the indirect taxation, i.e., taxation which is not included in this, is supposed to come from other sources; but, in India, there is no earning capacity, there is no industrial development, there is nothing that anybody can pay taxes on. The Governor's income-tax comes out of the pockets of the ryot; the Finance Member's income-tax comes out of the pockets of the ryot; the income-tax that the great magnates of trade and commerce in this country pay comes out of the pockets of the ryot. When the ryot is so deplorably down-trodden, when the ryot is so entirely poor, it is absurd that the Government expenditure should be growing and growing at a rate which is not comparable in any manner with the development of revenue. I might be told, Sir, that efficiency requires all this expenditure. I would ask my hon. Friends on the other side on the Treasury Bench, as English gentlemen, to answer me direct. What happened to America when America threw out the old rule and established self-government for herself; did America suffer from inefficiency? What is happening in other countries? Suppose we were well armed—as we are not armed to-day; suppose we had the power to defeat the Britisher in India and send him out; and suppose we had the power to rule ourselves after we succeed in sending him out; do you think we will suffer from any inefficiency because the British bureaucrat is not here and the present system of government is not here? I should think that efficiency should guide us not in expanding our expenditure. The present system is nothing but a brilliant and a dazzling sword. A dazzling sword is a very good thing for cutting others' throats. It is a very good weapon. But because it is brilliant, because it is dazzling, it cannot be devoured. It will kill the man who devours it. In India, we are unable to have the power in our hands, to control the whole machinery of financing the Government. There does not seem to be any use in asking us, on occasions like this to discuss that budget in a democratic hall like this, as our friends would make it out to be. Really what is the power that we have in this Council? Have the Ministers any power? Have the Executive Councillors any power, I ask. The Finance Member is the lord of all of us. He has to pass every new demand, he has to examine examine every new demand. In the English Parliament, every power is vested in the hands of the House of Commons, and the Finance Member is a part of the elected House of Commons. Here, the Finance Member is not an elected part of this House, and therefore, the Finance Member is really the king, the ruler and every blessed encomium may be thrown upon him for governing the administration. Therefore, I feel that this budget is very unsatisfactory from the point of view of real democracy.

"There are two or three aspects of it to which I would draw your kind attention in detail. How is the Government carried on in this province? I am sure by Superintendents, by assistants to hon. Members, by assistants to the heads of departments. And who are the heads of departments? So much has been talked of Indianisation all these six years since the Reforms were introduced; and yet there are no Indian heads in more than two or three departments. I have looked into the papers and I say that that is so. And we are governed by whom? By the Secretaries on the one side and by their superintendents and their assistant officers on the other. If that is the way in which we are governed, if it is for them that we should discuss the budget at sessions like this, I would certainly request the Government,

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that is responsible for this form of debate, that these three days be immediately taken away. The general discussion on the budget has entirely no influence on the policy of the Government, and as long as this House cannot influence the policy of the Government, as long as the Finance Member is not amenable to the vote of this House, it is useless to discus this budget in a House like this for three days. It is a sheer waste of time. Let us realise whether diarchy is democracy or whether diarchy is worse than bureaucracy. It is worse than bureaucracy for the simple reason that we are wasting so much of our money in order just to be dictated to by one officer or by two or three officers in the whole administration.

"I have merely to point to one or two other small items, as to how the Government carries on the administration at present. You will observe in the budget estimates that the Police Commissioner draws a very meagre pay, poor man, of Rs. 2,000 and he is to be paid every month probably another Rs. 1,000 for examining or inspecting motor buses and cars. [A voice Rs. 500.] According to my calculation it comes to Rs. 1,000. Probably I am wrong, and I had not much time to calculate as the budget was thrown on me at the last moment. Again, you will see, Sir, under European education, there is a particularly interesting item. Rs. 12,000 of scholarship is being given to European students, and for that purpose they hold an examination. I find that Rs. 5,000 has been budgeted for such examination. Sir, for a scholarship of Rs. 12,000, a cost of Rs. 5,000 has been budgeted for a preliminary examination. In this way, I can point to a number of things. For instance, Commissioner of Labour is to be given an assistant officer on Rs. 500 or Rs. 600. Probably there is some pet boy who is to be patted on the back and utilized for the purposes of Government. I do not know what it really means. In this way, we are running the race which is deplorably bad. The Finance Member, though he has attempted to give us figures, has not been kind enough to examine all the implications, the economic implications of his budget."

(At this stage the Secretary sounded the gong and the Member resumed his seat.)

* Mr. A. B. Shetty :—"Mr. President, Sir, before proceeding to make any general observations, I wish with your permission, Sir, to say a word or two on behalf of my own district, South Kanara, which as my hon. Friend, Mr. Saldanha, has often been urging in this House has not been receiving sufficient attention to its needs. And this, perhaps, for two reasons. South Kanara, in the first place, is in a remote corner of the Presidency, at the extreme south-west end of it and in the second place, being a Tulu Kanarese district, it stands isolated from all other districts. It cannot for these reasons make its voice felt with the force which Andhra or Tamil districts can muster on their side. If you compare South Kanara with Malabar you will find how its claims are neglected in many ways. There is a general tendency to locate almost all institutions meant for the West Coast in Malabar. I may, for illustration, point to the Kerala Soap factory in Calicut, the Fishery station at Tanur, the paddy-breeding station at Pattambi which is nearer Coimbatore than South Kanara though the station is meant for the West Coast, to the agricultural middle school and the agricultural farm in Taliparamba. I trust, Sir, that at least the industrial school which is proposed for the West Coast would be located at Mangalore. I say this in no spirit of rivalry with Malabar but because Mangalore with its many far famed factories and workshops is the place eminently fitted for an industrial school. Take, again, the question of roads. It is another instance

4-15 p.m.

of the way in which our district receives scant consideration. Though South Kanara maintains proportionately a greater mileage of roads than any other district board area, it has only 65 miles of trunk road as against the Presidency average of 126 miles. The neighbouring district of Malabar which maintains a total mileage of roads exceeding that of South Kanara by only 125 miles has as many as three trunk roads, 153 and odd miles in length and it has two imperial roads about 100 miles in length. The district board of South Kanara has again and again been asking the Madras Government that the Mangalore-Mercara road No. 1 should be converted into an imperial road and the Kodical ghat road which is next in importance as regards traffic should be taken up as a trunk road. The Kodical ghat road, I may add, is the main line of communication between Mysore and the West Coast, and the Mysore Planters' Association have been backing up the demand of the District Board of South Kanara in this matter. In spite of their weighty support even this small mercy has not been shown to us. I do not know, Sir, on what basis financial assistance is given to the local bodies. I find that an interpellation was put on this matter this morning but no reply has been given to it. I know it is a very difficult task to distribute fairly grants to local bodies. The best solution seems to me to make local bodies stand on their own legs. Let them have their own resources to meet their requirements so that they could be independent, and have a proper sense of responsibility, instead of merely depending upon the Government for small mercies.

It is not encouraging to read from the Budget memorandum that during the last six years, from 1920–21 to 1925–26 our expenditure has increased almost to double in extent of the growth of our revenues—242 and odd lakhs as against 129 and odd lakhs. Nor is it satisfying to find from the Finance Member's statement that the maintenance of the present establishment itself on the existing scale will absorb much of the growth of our revenue for many years to come. Even with the total remission of our contribution to the Central Government, the Finance Member does not hold out to us any hope that we could go on with our ameliorative programmes for more than three years. Now, if the Government is to be progressive and popular it must eliminate every possible item of unnecessary expenditure and it must so pool its resources as to make it possible to launch upon new schemes of development year after year. We shall not be justified if we spend lakhs and lakhs of money on buildings or other unproductive works, in improving the amenities of town life at the expense of the villages. What the Government do to help the ryots in the villages will be the acid test by which they will be judged. In the present circumstances of the province, we can very well embark upon a bolder policy of agricultural and industrial development.

"Take, first Agriculture. There is a crying need for more experimental and demonstration farms; an insistent demand for a larger staff of demonstrators. We must have at least one demonstrator for each taluk in the Presidency. I would put this as our minimum requirement and not as the goal which we should have in view, as pointed out in the Administration Report of the Agricultural department. I would go still further and say that the jurisdiction of each Circle officer, I mean the Deputy Director of Agriculture, should be reduced to a single district so as to make intensive work possible for him. If other departments of Government like those of

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Revenue, Police, Education, Judicial and Labour could each of them have a district officer, why should we grudge it for the department of Agriculture which is a matter of such vital concern to us? The District Officer whom I propose may be given another name and be placed in charge of the whole Development Department so that the work of agriculture, co-operation and industries may be co-ordinated and combined as it should have been done long ago. This would not only make for the better working of the departments but also reduce much unnecessary expenditure. The department of Industries has rightly come in for a great deal of criticism. One hon. Member of the House went so far as to seriously propose that the department of Industries should be abolished. It was said not in this year but a year ago. Now, this department has not met with sufficient success in establishing any pioneer industries of importance and several of the attempts in this direction have been hopeless failures. The only industry of importance which it has helped to promote to some extent is that of handloom weaving. But this requires greater attention and more encouragement than are at present afforded. What with the coming in and going out of directors and secretaries, with the lack of any settled policy and clear-cut programme of work in the past, this department has been merely marking time and adapting itself to the whims and fancies of fleeting directors. The department must proceed at once to concentrate on the important work of the improvement of handloom weaving and it must establish more technical and industrial schools with a view to tackle, if possible, the growing evil of unemployment. The survey of cottage industries which has recently been undertaken will, I hope, result in inaugurating a new era of industrial development in our rural areas. In helping the ryot to produce more out of his lands as well as in enabling him to get better prices for his produce, the co-operative movement can do a great deal. That is the reason for suggesting an amalgamation of the work of these three departments of Agriculture, Industries and Co-operation. At present the history of the co-operative movement is more a sad tale of increased overdues on the one side and heavy surpluses on the other. It has often been urged in this House, Sir, that mass education should be the first charge on the State revenues. Want of funds has so far been standing in the way of our carrying out a wide programme of free and compulsory education. Now that we have secured a remission of our contributions, we can earmark a portion of this amount for this purpose. A substantial portion of the remaining amount could very well be utilized for taking a definite step in the direction of prohibition to which this House stands committed. And a good portion may also be utilized for village improvement. This windfall gives us a good opportunity for effecting these three much-talked-of reforms, and I hope this House will unanimously press forward such a proposal."

* Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi:—" Mr. President, Sir, the House has to congratulate itself on having seen the day when the provincial contribution has been remitted. Oftentimes the Government have been telling us that they have to meet with a heavy burden of provincial contribution, and whenever a well here or a bridge there was asked for the excuse of our provincial contribution was readily put forth. I hope, Sir, that the days of holding out excuses have gone and the Government will now think of launching a more constructive programme.

" First, I wish to invite the attention of the hon. the Law Member in regard to schemes of irrigation. Lakhs and crores have been spent or

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advanced for the improvement of irrigation facilities in the South of the Presidency, and four years of his rule have not been able to give the Northern Circars or the Andhra country any facilities whatever. And even the long-expected Tungabhadra project seems to be receiving secondary consideration. That project has been trampled down; for, other projects now under construction have been thought of, and as an eye-wash a sum of Rs. 25,000 has been provided in the present budget for the investigation of the Tungabhadra project.

4-30 p.m. "In this connexion I would particulary invite the attention of the hon. the Law Member to the district of Nellore, which seems to have been entirely forgotten by the Ceded Districts Irrigation Enquiry Committee. I know, Sir, that there are four items which speak of Nellore district. But, in the body of the report, no thing is spoken of regarding the possibility of getting the benefits of the Tungabhadra project to the district of Nellore.

"Next to that, I would say that minor irrigation has been completely neglected in my district. Hon. Members coming from the rural areas could certainly understand how poorly minor irrigation works have been thought of by the Revenue officers of their several districts, and I would say with regard to my own district that nothing has been provided for by way of improving the minor irrigation. The budget estimates show a reduction of a lakh of rupees under one head of minor irrigation and a provision of only Rs. 900 under another head. This seems to be disastrous. The only protection that the ryot wants from the Government, the only privilege that the ryot expects from the Government, is the privilege of getting better facilities for irrigation. If big projects are not possible, it is at least advantageous to have smaller irrigation tanks revived or repaired. As far as my district is concerned no attempt has been made in this direction, and I hope that the question will be considered hereafter at least. Very often the Government have been telling us that big projects are under contemplation. Those big projects are being considered indefinitely and the minor irrigation projects are put off giving us the hope that the big projects will come very soon. Four years back, at the end of the year 1923, Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu moved a resolution and it was unanimously accepted by this House, and I think the hon. the Law Member himself had given the assurance that some projects in the Nellore district would be undertaken at once. During these four years, nothing has been done, and no attempt has been witnessed as far as I can see. I hope this question will engage the attention of the hon. the Law Member and also the hon. Member for Revenue.

"Another matter on which I wish to lay emphasis is the question of the Andhra University. I am afraid the change in the Ministry has brought about a change in the destiny of the Andhra University. (Hear, hear.) This year the budget provides for a paltry sum of only Rs. 1,15,000. Probably it is the intention of the hon. the Chief Minister that the Vice-Chancellor should go on with his small office and probably brood on books perhaps borrowed as the University has not yet a library of its own; and if that is the intention of the hon. the Minister for Education, I do not think that he would be justifying his position. If the Tamil University which is contemplated—probably the hon. the Minister has revised his ideas on this matter—has to achieve any success at all, I should think that the success of the Andhra University must lead the way to it. I am told that projects to the extent of Rs. 13,00,000—I may be corrected if I am wrong—have been

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prepared by the department concerned in connexion with the improvement of the Andhra University. But I do not find any trace of those projects in the budget estimates at all. Perhaps the hon. the Minister for Education with one stroke of his pen has abandoned them. If that is the policy that he is going to adopt with regard to the Andhra University if that is the treatment that he is going to give to a new University that has been given a form by this hon. House, I should think that he is doing much injustice. I should like to point out that it is sheer partiality that the hon. Minister is showing. If he is not capable of providing for better projects, I should think that he should at least be capable of continuing what is already begun. I know that he is quite open to conviction, because I have been seeing that he has never hesitated to change his ideas; and I hope that this year a better treatment would be accorded to the Andhra University than what has been suggested by the figures given in the Budget estimates.

" Now that the Government are able to command a better financial position and now that the provincial contribution has been remitted, I hope the Government would certainly think of the nation-developing departments. Time and often we have been told in this House that as soon as the Provincial contribution is remitted, funds would be found for everything, for agriculture, for the veterinary department, for irrigation, for education, for medicine and so on. But we see no trace of any activity towards that pious hope being realized. I hope that the better control of the finances would give them the required boldness to ask for more funds. I would certainly appreciate the fact that the hon. the Minister for Medicine is willing to spend more on medicine, but I cannot be a party to vote for 40 lakhs or more for improving the hospitals, etc., in the City of Madras. When the rural areas are suffering for want of proper medical men, when the rural hospitals are not given even the benefit of antiquated apparatus, I do not really find the wisdom in our spending 40 lakhs for hospitals in Madras and that for equipping them with up-to-date and modern equipment. I suggest that this 40 lakhs should be spent in rural areas to relieve the suffering there and consequently to relieve the congestion in the urban areas. If the Government are broad-minded and large-hearted they will certainly see the wisdom of giving this surplus money to the local bodies to spend on mufassal hospitals. And further, Sir, when the Village Officers Restoration Bill was on the anvil we were told that the pay of the village officers could not be retained at that standard, if all the village officers were to be restored and the hon. House consented to a reduction in the salary of the village officers, provided all those that had been thrown out of office were to be restored. Now the same complaint cannot be made by the Government. The former excuse cannot hold good. Lakhs of rupees are now in the hands of the Government and I hope the hon. the Revenue Member would certainly take this opportunity of providing for the standard of pay that had been in existence before the Village Officers Restoration Act was passed. I do not think, Sir, that this is a preposterous request. This is a very modest request. There have been resolutions before this House recommending that the village officers' pay should be increased to Rs. 20, Rs. 30 and so on. But I would put that at a modest rate, namely, that the old pay of the village officers should be revived, taking the opportunity of the funds now available with the Government ".

(At this stage the gong was sounded.)

[Mr. C. E. Wood] [3rd March 1927

* Mr. C. E. Wood :—"I take this opportunity of adding my congratulations to those of others to the hon. the Finance Member upon his budget, and more especially with regard to the manner in which it is presented. It is understandable even to the Commercial community, of whom it is often said that much that is done by Government is far from understandable!

"The hon. Finance Member appears to be a little anxious lest he should have shown a spirit of recklessness in suggesting the appropriation of unspent balances—some 134·71 lakhs.

"Quite apart from the question as to whether we shall or shall not benefit from a further large remission of Provincial contributions I take the view that the hon. Member is not only fully justified in robbing the hen-roost in this way but that it is his duty to do so when there is a shortage and work to be done.

"I hold that a part of our duties in this Council is to see that we leave behind a record of work accomplished, of advancement; that posterity demands from us a record of progress and not a bag of money and that we would be failing in our duty were we to leave undone essential work for which funds were available.

"Being a Commercial representative my first examination of the budget is naturally amongst the Industrial provision. I see there an increase for Engineering direction and sincerely trust this does not presage another Commercial venture! The record of the Industries department is such in the matter of Commercial ventures that one cannot but view with some apprehension any additional provision.

4-45 p.m. "I make bold to say that not one of the Industrial ventures of a Commercial nature which they have undertaken during the past ten years has proved a success either financially or as a means for developing new Industries, and when I say 'financially' I mean that if the expenditure of each on Capital, running and maintenance, from the start, together with proper direction charges and depreciation were taken into account the money lost would stagger the tax-payer. And no new Industries have arisen as a consequence.

"When trained Industrialists cannot foresee profits it is hardly likely that a Government department can make them.

"For development which holds a reasonable chance of financial success capital is always forthcoming and I think there is more tendency for Indian and imported capital to join together, which is what is wanted. No one wishes to import capital if it is available in India, in fact outside capital for India is not so readily available as it once was.

"I am not at war with the present policy of Government in these matters as I believe that wiser counsels prevail and that the Industries department expects in future to confine its Industrial development programme to experimental work, technical instruction and assistance of that nature; I am merely expressing the views of my part of the Commercial community on what has been done in the past and the hope that the present budget contains no provision for enterprise in the nature of new Commercial ventures.

"The increased provision for pumping and boring is very satisfactory. The provision of cheap facilities in this direction for the poor ryot is one of

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the greatest boons that can be conferred, and I would even welcome a programme whereby these services were rendered at prices considerably below cost.

" Again, the provision for the survey of Cottage Industries is one which is to be heartily welcomed. The possibilities deserve close examination and if it is found that the lot of the agriculturist can be improved through granting him some facilities and technical help a great work will be launched.

" I turn to the Medical grant because the hon. Member who has just spoken referred adversely to the grant proposed for the Madras General Hospital. I think the hon. Member should remember that this is the Mother Hospital and that unless it can point the way in up-to-date equipment and accommodation and training there can be no hope of the Mufassal Hospitals being anything but behind the times. Madras is known in Madras and in all India to be the most enlightened Presidency and it is a blot on our record that our General Hospital should not be even comparable to those existing in Bombay and Calcutta. Let it not be said that we are ceasing to lead India in such matters.

" The transfer of the Health Council to Government control seems to be a move very much in the right direction, but I have been disappointed not to see any specific mention of provision for work in connexion with what has been called Social Hygiene. It will be remembered that last year a delegation from the Social Hygiene Council visited us and showed us the possibilities of taking active steps against that terrible scourge venereal disease which possesses such a hold on the country, and the name of which so many people seem even afraid to mention.

" We are told, and I think any medical practitioner will confirm it, that the vitality of the country is 50 per cent below par as a result of Malaria, Hookworm, incorrect feeding and venereal disease. The three first matters are receiving attention but not yet the last which is possibly the most important of all. As an employer of labour, I know how the vitality of the labourer is reduced to a mere fraction of its normal by bad health and I hold that, until India has become physically much fitter by the provision of facilities to raise the standard of health, she cannot possibly hope to stand up as a nation in the present day competition of the world.

" I regard provision for health as provision for the political advancement of the country and hope to see a generous allotment in due course for the work referred to.

" The budget, on the whole, presents a most satisfactory appearance. It reveals a sound financial position coupled with a desire to make provision for all the most pressing needs of the Presidency."

* Mr. R. Nagan Gowda :—" It is fortunate that we have 1,654·8 lakhs to spend this year and this with the addition of 165 lakhs remission likely to be made by the Central Government ought to be able to enable us to do more for the people that supply the revenues for this Presidency. A great portion of the revenue of this Presidency is obtained from land revenue. It is necessary, I believe, Sir, that at least something ought to be done to enable the people that supply this large proportion of land revenue and a large proportion of the revenue of the Presidency by way of keeping up this supply

to the country. Now, looking at the proportion that exists between land revenue and the money that is spent for the improvement of the agricultural conditions one will notice that rarely any more than 50 per cent is spent on this. It is something like the killing of the goose that lays the golden egg. The cultivator pays a great deal more to the upkeep of the Government than any other member of the community. He pays probably an income-tax much more than the members of the other communities, only we do not recognize that it is an income-tax. Then, Sir, not only does he bear the land revenue but also pays the revenue of the Government in the form of excise duty. Here he pays 500 lakhs of rupees. He also pays, Sir, a stamp duty of 250 lakhs. These three items cover 90 per cent of the revenue of the Presidency. Now is it not reasonable to suppose that the people that pay this 90 per cent of the revenue of the Presidency ought to be paid back in a similar proportion? Is it too much to expect that they have to be paid if not that much at least they must be paid proportionately larger amount towards the improvement of their conditions? Is it too much, Sir, that agriculturists who form 90 per cent of the people who should be given an opportunity to improve their trade and profession should be given only 35 lakhs of rupees for agriculture. Now, Sir, taking the agricultural industry of growing paddy, growing cotton and sugarcane, you will find that this country is far behind every other advanced country in the matter of the yield. And this is inspite of the fact that we are at the game much longer than any other country. We grow much less wheat and rice per acre than other advanced countries in the world. Is it not necessary, Sir, that more money ought to be spent to carry on research work to enable us to find out better methods of cultivation? Then, Sir, is it not necessary that we ought to carry on research work to enable people to increase the fertility of their cheeper than they have been able to do so far. Then, Sir, is it not proper that we should find out means by which this agricultural knowledge is brought to the doors of the agriculturists much more readily than at present. There is a demonstrator for every two taluks at present. It will be much better if the number of these men are doubled at least. Then, Sir, there is the question of village communication, village sanitation and also the question of rural industries. Three-fourths of the people have now to depend on agriculture as their main occupation. This not only makes them incapable of getting enough livelihood for themselves but it also discourages men from hoping to get anything better in their lives. Would it not be better to spend more money on industries so that some portion of the people that now depend on land might go back to industries? Sir, we had the weaving industry much earlier than any other nation and this is now being ousted by the products that come from other countries. Will it not be much better to get more research work done to enable the people in these industries to get their work done at a much cheaper rate than at present. Also, Sir, there is the great need of water-supply in the villages. You will be surprised to realize that in some parts of the central districts it is very difficult to get water for drinking. Would it not be better that provision is made in the budget for constructing a number of tube wells in towns and villages so that people may not feel the difficulty of finding water which is the first essential of life. A great deal of money is spent in building constructions and I see a sum of over 6 lakhs has been spent—3 lakhs for the college buildings at Coimbatore and 3 lakhs for quarters to the officials at Hosur. For Government schools money has been spent lavishly. I am reminded of a poet who

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said of the fish in the pond that looked at the monkey and wanting to learn to jump from branch to branch they planted trees also in the pond. Just as the mere preserve of trees with branches could not enable the fish to learn jumping so also mere buildings could not educate children. In short too large an amount of money is spent by way of buildings. There are schools in this country where we get more learning without spending huge sums for building purposes. Much less money has been spent for buildings than for the maintenance of the staff. I wish to add one more word before I finish and that is about the salaries that are paid to the men employed by Government and the income that the men could get from their professions in private enterprise. There ought to be a certain standard by which the wages of the men in Government service is calculated. The average living wage of a family in this country is somewhere near Rs. 75 and this ought to be maintained as a standard by which the salaries of men that are employed for public work ought to be calculated."

At this stage the House rose for the day to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

APPENDIX I

[Vide answer to question No. 198 asked by Mr. C. Gopala Menon at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 3rd March 1927, page 143 supra.]

Extract from the Reference of the Commissioner of Excise, C.R. No. 8759-Abk./26, dated 22nd December 1926.

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7. All the arrack shops were closed as an experiment for a period of three years from 1st April 1924 in the taluks of Shiyali and Tirutturaipundi of the Tanjore district; in the Tiruvadanai taluk of the Ramnad district; in the Tenkasi taluk of the Tinnevelly district; and in the Attur taluk of the Salem district. The period of the experiment will cease with the end of the current year and the question has therefore to be considered whether the closure of shops may be made permanent or continued as an experiment for a further period. In the Shiyali taluk the experiment led to an increase in the consumption of foreign liquor during 1925-26, but during the first half of the current year there is a fall. It has had no effect on toddy consumption in the area nor apparently on the arrack consumption in the adjoining taluks. In the Tirutturaipundi taluk, the experiment stimulated the consumption of foreign liquor to some extent but had no effect on the toddy consumption in the locality nor on arrack consumption in the adjoining taluks. The closure of shops is reported not to have resulted in illicit distillation or kindred offences, which are reported to be unknown in these parts. Two cases of unlicensed transport involving $2\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of liquor were reported in 1925-26 and one case of transport of $9\frac{1}{2}$ drams of liquor intended

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for Shiyali taluk was reported in the current year. There were also three cases of illicit transport into Tirutturaipundi taluk in the first half of the current year against four during 1925–26 and one in 1924–25. Both the Collector and the Assistant Commissioner suggest that the closure of shops in these two taluks may be continued in the experimental stage for another year and the Assistant Commissioner recommends that the limit of private possession in these two areas may be reduced from four drams to one dram. The Commissioner agrees that the experiment in these two taluks may be continued for a further period but considers that it may be tried for two years more and that the limit of private possession of arrack in these localities may be fixed at two drams during this period.

With regard to Tiruvadanai taluk, the experiment stimulated the consumption of foreign liquor in the taluk but had no appreciable effect on toddy consumption. There was an increase in the consumption of arrack during 1925-26 in the adjoining taluk of Tiruppattur and in the foreign liquor consumption in the adjoining Ramnad and Paramakudi taluks. These facts would tend to show that the experiment in this taluk has not been a success and the Assistant Commissioner points out that arrack is being transported in buses in small quantities into some parts of Tiruvadanai taluk from the shops in the adjoining taluks. Three cases of unlicensed transport were detected in the taluk during each of the years 1924–25 and 1925–26. No cases of illicit distillation and kindred offences were reported during the period in the taluk. The Assistant Commissioner suggests that the closure of shops may be continued in the experimental stage. The Commissioner would prefer to give the experiment a further trial before making the closure of shops permanent and recommends that the experiment may be continued for a further period of two years. The limit of private possession of arrack in the taluk may be reduced to two drams as in the case of the two taluks of the Tanjore district. As regards Tenkasi taluk, the experiment has stimulated the consumption of foreign liquor in the taluk but had no marked effect either on toddy consumption in the taluk or on arrack consumption in the adjoining taluks. Three illicit distillation cases were reported during 1924–25 in the taluks where such crime was unknown previously but none were reported subsequently. There was only one case of unlicensed transport reported during the period of the experiment in 1924–25 but the Assistant Commissioner doubts whether serious attention was paid by the staff to see whether arrack was being purchased in quantities of less than four drams from the shops in the surrounding taluks and brought into the dry area. The important point however is that smuggling of Travancore arrack continues. Ten such cases were detected in the first half of the current year against thirteen during 1925–26 and seventeen during 1924–25. In view of this factor both the Collector and the Assistant Commissioner recommend the reopening of the shops in the taluk. With a view to check the increase in the consumption of foreign liquor in the taluk the licence fee of F.L. 2 shop in the locality was raised to Rs. 250 from 1st April 1926. Additional preventive staff for checking smuggling has been sanctioned from 10th February 1925 and the arrack issued from 1st April 1926 to the adjoining British taluks was ordered to be coloured so as to facilitate the detection of cases of smuggling of Travancore arrack. The Travancore Darbar has also during 1925–26 reduced the limit of private possession of arrack in the

adjoining Shencottah taluk and restricted the issues of liquor to the State shops on the border of Tenkasi taluk which has led to a reduced consumption in these shops. The Commissioner considers that the full effect of these steps should be watched for a further period before the question of abandoning the experiment is considered and accordingly recommends that the experiment may be continued for a further period of two years within the limit of private possession of arrack reduced to two drams in the taluk.

In the Attur taluk there is no F.L. 2 shop and the experiment has had no effect on toddy consumption in the taluk nor on arrack consumption in the adjoining taluks. The number of cases reported under illicit distillation and kindred offences has however substantially increased in the taluk. Six such cases were detected in the first half of the current year against sixteen during 1925-26, eight in 1924–25, one in 1922–23 and none in 1921–22. Fifteen gallons of wash were seized in one case in October 1926 very near Attur. Illicit distillation crime shows a marked increase in the adjoining Rasipur taluk and it is reported that illicitly distilled liquor from this taluk and from Uttankarai taluk is being taken to the dry area. The Assistant Commissioner reports that the people in the locality have personally complained to him about the closure of the shops and considers that the experiment should be abandoned. The Collector agrees with him. The Commissioner, however, would point out that consequent on the formation of an additional circle from 1st May 1926 in the Salem district, the Inspector, Salem circle, has a smaller area to control and should be able to cope effectively with illicit distillation crime in the dry area. The Commissioner would therefore recommend that the experiment may be continued for a further period of two years with a reduced limit of two drams for the possession of arrack without a licence as in the other four taluks in which the experiment is now carried on.

APPENDIX II

[*Vide* " Communication to the Council " at page 165 *supra*.]

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

NOTE.

With reference to the answer given to question No. 22 asked by M.R.Ry. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar Avargal at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 24th January 1927, the Government have ascertained that Deputy Registrars of Co-operative Societies did not do any super audit work during the quarter ending 31st December 1925. The term 'super audit' is understood to mean a separate and complete audit made at longer intervals than the original annual audit—*vide* paragraph 93 of the Report of the Committee on Co-operation in India, 1915.

26th February 1927. V. PANDRANG ROW.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, the 4th March 1927.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. President (the hon. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju Garu) in the chair.

PRESENT:

Ramaswami Ayyar, K.C.I.E., The hon. Sir C.P.
Marjoribanks, C.S.I., C.I.E., The hon. Mr. N. E.
Usman Sahib Bahadur, The hon Khan Bahadur Muhammad.
Moir, C.S.I., C.I.E., The hon. Mr. T. E.
Subbarayan, The hon. Dr. P.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, The hon. Mr. A.
Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N.
Abdul Hye Sahib Bahadur, K.
Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur S. K.
Adinarayana Chettiyar, Mr. T.
Anjaneyulu, Mr. P.
Appavu Chettiyar, Mr. C. D.
Ari Gowder, Mr. H. B.
Arpudaswami Udayar, Mr. S.
Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.
Bazl-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur, C.I.E., C.B.E., Khan Bahadur Muhammad.
Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu, Mr. P.
Bheemayya, Mr. J.
Biswanath Das Mahasayo, Sriman.
Boag, Mr. G. T.
Chidambaranatha Mudaliyar, Mr. T. K
Cotterell, C.I.E., Mr. C. B.
Davis, Mr. J. A.
Dorai Raja, Mr. S. N.
Ellappa Chettiyar, Rao Sahib S.
Gangadhara Siva, Mr. M. V.
Gopala Menon, Mr C.
Govindaraja Mudaliyar, Mr. C. S.
Guruswami, Rao Sahib L. C.
Hamid Khan Sahib Bahadur, Abdul.
Hampayya, Rai Sahib M.
Harisarvottama Rao, Mr. G.
Hearson, Mr. H. F. P.
John, Mr. V. Ch.
Kaleswara Rao, Mr. A.
Karant, Mr. K. R.
Khadir Mohidin Sahib Bahadur, Muhammad.
Koti Reddi, Mr. K.
Krishnan, Mr. K.
Krishnan Nayar, Diwan Bahadur M.
Krishnaswami Nayakar, Mr. K. V.
Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri.
Kumaraswami Reddiyar, Diwan Bahadur S.
Kuppuswami, Mr. J.
Madhavan Nayar, Mr. K.
Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur.
Mallayya, Mr. B. S.
Manikkavelu Nayakar, Mr. M. A.
Marudavanam Pillai, Mr. C.
Meera Ravuttar Bahadur, K. P. V. S. Muhammad.
Moidoo Sahib Bahadur, T. M.
Muniswami Nayudu, Rao Bahadur B.
Muniswami Pillai, Mr. V. I.
Muppil Nayar of Kavalappara, Mr.
Muttayya Mudaliyar, Mr. S.
Muthulakshmi Reddi, Dr. (Mrs.).
Muthuranga Mudaliyar, Mr. C. N.
Nagan Gowda, Mr. R.
Nanjappa Bahadur, M.V.O., Subadar-Major S. A.
Narayana Raju, Mr. D.
Narayanan Chettiyar, Mr. Al. Ar.
Narayanan Nambudripad, Rao Bahadur O. M.
Narayanaswami Pillai, Mr. T. M.
Obi Reddi, Mr. C.
Pandrang Rao, Mr. V.
Parasurama Rao Pantulu, Mr. A.
Parthasarathi Ayyangar, Mr. C. R.
Patro, *Kt.*, Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.
Premayya, Mr. G. R.
Raja of Panagal, K.C.I.E.
Rajan, Mr. P. T.
Ramachandra Padayachi, Mr. K
Ramachandra Reddi, Mr. B.
Ramanath Goenka, Mr.
Ramasomayajulu, Mr. C.
Ratnasabapathi Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur C. S.
Sahajanandam, Swami A. S.
Saldanha, Mr. J. A.
Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, Mr.
Sarabha Reddi, Mr. K.
Satyamurti, Mr. S.
Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Sitarama Reddi, Rao Bahadur K.
Siva Raj, Mr N.
Siva Rao, Mr. P.
Soundra Pandia Nadar, Mr. W. P. A.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. R.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. T. C.
Srinivasan, Rao Sahib R.
Subrahmanya Moopanar, Mr. S.
Subrahmanya Pillai, Mr. Chavadi K.
Sundaramurti Pillai, Rao Sahib P. V. S.
Swami, Mr. K. V. R.
Syed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur, Nattam Dubash Kadir Sahib.
Thomas, Mr. Daniel.
Tireman, C.I.E., Mr. H.
Tulasiram, Mr. L. K.
Uppi Sahib Bahadur, K.
Vanavudaiya Goundar, Mr. S. V.
Venkatapati Raju, Mr. P. C.
Venkataramana Ayyangar, Mr. C. V.
Venkatarangam Nayudu, Mr. C.
Venkataratnam, Mr. B.
Venkiah, Mr. S.
Wood, Mr. C. E.
Zamindar of Gollapalli.
Zamindar of Kallikota.
Zamindar of Seithur.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No.* 15 *on the 4th December* 1924.]

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The President will call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS

Electricity

Enhancement of the rate of electric supply in Madras City.

* 218 *Q*.—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there exists any agreement between the Government and the Electric Supply Corporation, Madras, regarding the supply of electric current to the City of Madras and whether the same will be placed on the table ;

(*b*) whether the rate at which current is supplied at present is higher than the rate at which it was supplied before the Great War and, if so, what led to the enhancement of the rate ; and

(*c*) whether the Government propose to take steps to get the rates reduced in view of changed circumstances prevailing in the market ?

A.—(*a*) For the supply of electric energy in Madras, three licences were granted under the provisions of the Indian Electricity Act—

(*a*) The Madras Electric Licence, 1905 ;
(*b*) The Madras (Port) Electric Licence, 1909 ; and
(*c*) The Madras (Cantonment) Electric Licence, 1910.

All these were published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*; the first was published at pages 664 to 666, Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 29th August 1905. There seems therefore no need to place it on the Council table.

(*b*) The maximum rates authorized in the original licence were—
(*a*) for lighting purposes—8 annas per unit ; and
(*b*) for power purposes—4 annas per unit.

In June 1919 the Government approved the introduction of a flat rate of five annas per unit for electric energy supplied on a combined circuit for the use of lights and fans. The licence

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was accordingly amended and the amendment published in the gazette. It was provided that the flat rate should be charged only for a period of three years from the date on which the amendment came into force. This limit of time was subsequently removed mainly on account of the increase in the cost of working the undertaking and of the necessity for a large amount of additional capital for various improvements to the plant to meet the increasing demand and to put the undertaking on a satisfactory basis.

(c) No.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" Sir, now that the cost of the undertaking and the necessity for a large amount of additional capital as has been given in answer to clause (b) of the question, is much reduced, may I know whether the Government will consider the advisability of reducing the flat rate by one anna at least ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Mr. President, Sir, it will be noticed it was by an order dated 1921, that Government came to the conclusion that inasmuch as the cost of working such undertakings are systematically increasing owing to the rise of prices of machinery and materials and to the rise in wages of labour, the increase of rate is justified. If hon. Members of this House and the Corporation will put their heads together and point out that the rates can be lowered Government will be glad to consider such suggestions."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" Does not the final order shut up any such possibility ? The limit of time is removed for some reasons. Is the door still open to change the rates ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" The Government have definitely said in the order of 1921 that they reserve to themselves the power, when the conditions alter, to revise the rates."

Irrigation

Improvement of drainage in Godavari western delta.

* 219 *Q.*—Mr. D. Narayana Raju : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether any proposals have been submitted to Government for the improvement of drainage in the Godavari western delta ; and

(b) if so, what action the Government intend to take on them ?

A.—(a) No specific proposals for drainage in the western delta have been received, but the Chief Engineer has applied for extra staff for the purpose of remodelling the channels and improving the drainage of the delta as a whole.

(b) This is now under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. D. Narayana Raju :—" Sir, in answer given to a question on 24th March 1925, the Government were pleased to give a list of drainage works which were on the programme for approval. May I know what became of these drainage works, and why there were no specific proposals now made ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" As a matter of fact, specific proposals were put forward. But the Finance Committee put the whole scheme under class III. This year again they put it under class III. In spite of it, certain proposals for remodelling the drainage in the Godavari delta have been put in class II and will come up for discussion in the budget."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" May I know why the remodelling of the channels and the drainage of the delta were mixed up instead of each being kept separate ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" They were considered to be a part of a comprehensive programme."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" The remodelling of the channels relates to irrigation, and this remodelling has so long been going on. So far as the ryots are concerned, they find that it does not do them any good. But drainage was badly neglected for a long number of years and needs immediate attention. May I know what difficulty is there to take up drainage separately ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" It will be considered, Sir."

Marine

Increased estimates for the Tuticorin Deep Water Harbour scheme.

*220 *Q.*—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the estimates for the Tuticorin Deep Water Harbour scheme have now risen to 57 lakhs while they were only 40 lakhs in the beginning and, if so, what are the chief reasons for the large increase ;

(*b*) whether the dues collected at the Harbour have recently been increased very much and, if so, to what extent and whether there is a likelihood of the dues being increased if the scheme is to be constructed according to the revised estimates and, if so, to what extent ;

(*c*) whether there is a proposal to change the site of the harbour and, if so, what the cost of the change will be and whether shop owners and house owners near the present harbour have protested against it ; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the citizens of Tuticorin held a public meeting on the 28th November 1926 and passed resolutions protesting against the increasing cost on the ground that it will seriously affect the interests of trade in the port and, if so, whether copies of the resolutions have been sent to the Government and whether the Government have passed orders on the same and to what effect ?

A.—(*a*) The estimates prepared in 1923 by the Harbour Engineer-in-Chief to Government for the execution of the harbour works at Tuticorin amounted to Rs. 39·96 lakhs. The works are now estimated to cost about Rs. 57 lakhs. The increase is due partly to the provision for the construction of a dry dock for the use of the vessels working at the port, and mainly to the need for additional plant, including a more powerful dredger capable of dealing expeditiously with a very compact hard stratum of yellow sandstone conglomerate which has been encountered at 24 feet below water.

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(b) The Landing and Shipping dues at the port of Tuticorin were raised from 6 annas to 10 annas per ton on 1st July 1923 and from 10 annas to 11 annas and 3 pies per ton on 1st April 1924. The Government indicated in 1923 that it should be possible to finance the scheme, then estimated to cost about Rs. 40 lakhs, with an eventual tonnage rate of about Re. 1. It is not at present anticipated that the increase of the estimates will necessitate a further increase of the dues.

(c) There is no proposal to change the site selected in 1923. The Government have received no representation from the owners of property in Tuticorin.

(d) The Indian Chamber of Commerce at Tuticorin has sent a communication referring to the meeting of 25th November 1926. Copies of resolutions passed at the meeting have not been received by the Government.

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" Sir, as regards the answer to clause (a), may I know whether the Government have got a guarantee that the maximum estimate has been reached at Rs. 57 lakhs ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" At the present moment the position is this: the improvement of the Tuticorin harbour involves a certain amount of dredging and the construction of certain works. The dredging proceeded on the report that we received that coral of a certain consistency and hardness formed the basis of a sub-stratum at the bottom of the sea at that place. It has been found, as is referred to in the answer, that there is a harder stratum of yellow sandstone conglomerate, which requires more effective dredging. That is the only new item which has been introduced into this matter. It is not expected that this estimate will be increased. I may add further that in response to a request that emanated from the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Tuticorin, and certain other interests in Tuticorin, they have been given the opportunity to avail themselves of other expert opinion, if they are so advised, in order that they may verify whether this increase is really necessitated or is beneficial."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" I am afraid the answer does not give any definite information . . ."

The hon. the President :—" Order, order. It is not in order to pass any remarks as to the nature of the answer given by the Government. I may remind the House and draw attention to rule 9, that supplementary questions are intended to elicit further information on questions of fact which are dealt with in the answers given by the Government."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" With due deference to you, Sir, I simply wanted to repeat the question."

The hon. the President :—" The hon. Member will not be entitled to repeat any answer which the Government has given. He has simply to put supplementary questions arising out of it."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" May I not repeat the question when I have not got a definite answer ? "

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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Whether good, bad or indifferent, the answer given by the Government has to be taken."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" There is no answer at all in the case of my question."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It is not in order for hon. Members to repeat the questions."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I take it that in the original investigation the foundation was not sufficiently tested below 24 feet ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Whether there is hard coral at the bottom of the sea, how can it be tested below 24 feet ? Twenty-four feet of coral has been removed and dredging has been completed. Below 24 feet a further hard stratum has emerged."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know whether any pit was excavated to test the foundation to be laid ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Excavations were done in various places. This was, as will appear from the papers which are at the disposal of the hon. Member, an unexpected hard stratum, a fault as they call in geological language. It is an unexpected stratum of harder coral which underlies the bed of coral which has been excavated."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know whether this powerful dredger has been purchased ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" No, Sir."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Is any attempt made to purchase it ? Are any tenders called for ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Before any such purchase takes place, the Tuticorin people have asked that if possible other expert opinion over and above the Harbour Engineer's should be taken. In response to that, we are willing to have other expert opinion taken. Moreover, I propose about the 3rd or 4th of April to go to Tuticorin with the Secretary to the Department and interview the commercial interests, both Indian and European and find exactly what their attitude is in regard not only to this question of dredging but also in regard to the question of increase of rates which forms a subject of this question."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know whether there is a suggestion to use the new dredger which is in use at the Cochin harbour ? Something was said about it in a communiqué ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" That was one of the suggestions. But it is considered much better to take the line that I have suggested."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know as to why intermediate increase from 6 annas to Re. 1 has been approved ? It has not yet risen to Re. 1. It is only at 11 annas 3 pies. Why two stages of intermediate increases have been ordered ? "

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The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"This was done in April 1924. If my hon. Friend wants further information, I shall look into the papers. These increases from 6 annas to 10 annas and from 10 annas to 11 annas 3 pies were made after giving full notice, and after the European and the Indian Chambers of Commerce were consulted."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"May I know whether any normal increase in the rates is expected in the near future?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I want notice."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"As for Re. 1, is it so finally settled that it will not be increased?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"The Government so far do not propose to go beyond Re. 1 at any time."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"There is a mistake, Sir, in my question (c). Perhaps the hon. Member may ask for notice. I have asked whether there is any proposal to change the site of the harbour . . . ?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member will do well to give notice of his correct question."

Mr. L K. TULASIRAM :—"With regard to the answer to clause (c), I would like to know from the hon. the Law Member whether there is at least a proposal to so change the situation of the harbour so that the present houses in the harbour are not affected—I mean the warehouses?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"So far as I know there is no proposal to change the site. The proposals for harbour improvements were put forward and published in 1923 and due notice was given to all the inhabitants of the commercial interests of Tuticorin."

Railways

Refreshment room for Muhammadans at Nandyal railway station.

* 221 Q.—MUHAMMAD KHADIR MOHIDIN SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any provision for Muhammadans to dine in Indian refreshment rooms at Nandyal railway station; and

(b) if not, whether the Government propose to address the railway authorities to make the necessary arrangements for Muhammadans?

A.—(a) The Government have no information.

(b) The matter is one primarily to be moved in the local advisory committee of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.

Construction of a carriage road over the Netravati Railway Bridge.

* 222 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have received a memorial from certain inhabitants of South Kanara asking for the construction of a carriage road over the Netravati Railway Bridge of the South Indian Railway; and

(b) what action Government have taken or propose to take?

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A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—"I want to know whether Government can really say that they have not received a memorial. I am positively sure that a memorial was sent more than a month ago."

The hon. the President :—"The hon. Member need not furnish information. But he has only to put his supplementary question."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—"I want to know whether Government is positively sure that no memorial was received."

The hon. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"As will be evident from the question itself, I am in charge of railways and my hon. Colleague Dr. Subbarayan is in charge of carriage roads. Therefore, both our departments have looked into the matter, and found that no memorial has been received. That is all I can say."

Constitution of districts, divisions and taluks

Headquarters for West Godavari district.

* 223 *Q.*—Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the question of fixing the headquarters for the West Godavari district has been finally settled ; if not, what are the places now under consideration and when is the question to be finally settled ; and

(*b*) whether the chief official opinion and the general public opinion are in favour of Ellore or Nidadavole ?

A.—(*a*) The Government have decided that Ellore should be the headquarters of the district and have issued orders accordingly in G.O. No. 704, Revenue, dated 3rd May 1926, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

(*b*) The majority of the local officers consulted were in favour of Nidadavole and the general public opinion as reflected by the vote on the resolution moved in the Legislative Council in August 1925 was in favour of Ellore.

Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju :—"With reference to the answer to clause (*b*), is the hon. the Revenue Member aware that the majority of the people consulted in the matter voted in favour of Nidadavole ?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—"If the hon. Member says so, I accept it, Sir." (Laughter.)

Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju :—"Is the hon. the Revenue Member aware that the relative importance of the two places, Nidadavole and Ellore, were not discussed in this Council ?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—"There again, I am prepared to accept the hon. Member's assurance, Sir."

Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju :—"Is the hon. the Revenue Member aware that it is only very few members, including even those who were not

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representatives of the district, have voted for Ellore while the great majority were neutral ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Again, Sir, I am prepared to accept that it is so."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" May I know, Sir, whether some of the taluk boards in the district of West Godavari passed resolutions recommending Nidadavole and none recommended Ellore ? " 11-15 a.m.

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I have no recollection ; I must ask for notice."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" From the proceedings of the Finance Committee I find that the Finance Committee approved of the headquarters without prejudice to the selection of the building scheme site. In view of the recommendation of the Finance Committee, will the Government give this House an opportunity to reconsider this question ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" It cannot be indefinitely going on. There must be a time-limit. We must settle it some time. The longer we delay the greater the inconvenience to the public. The Government at the time had an open mind, and the Council voted for Ellore and we proceeded accordingly."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" Have any moneys been spent by way of preliminaries ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Some money has been spent. I must ask for notice if you want the exact figures. There has been some expenditure but not very much."

Mr. B. Venkataratnam asked a question in Telugu.

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not understand the question of the hon. Member." (Laughter.)

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" You have ruled, Sir, that the hon. Member for East Godavari is entitled to ask questions in his mother tongue, and I submit that the Treasury Bench must make arrangements either in consultation with you or with their own officers to get the questions translated. To raise a laughter by admitting ignorance of the language is certainly not an answer to the question. I refuse to be a party to the Council being made a place for jokes of this kind."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member for the University will remember that it has been pointed out that it is the duty of the President to make arrangements for the purpose and I have accepted suggestions from the Treasury Bench. On the former occasion I did make arrangements for translation. I shall now call for one of the Telugu clerks of the office and ask him to translate the question."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am much obliged to you, Sir. I was raising that point in order that the hon the Revenue Member may ask the question to be translated instead of raising a laughter by saying that he does not understand the language of the question."

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Mr. B. Venkataratnam repeated his question which was translated by the Secretary to Council thus:

"As regards the headquarters of the West Godavari district, did Government issue a Government Order fixing Nidadavole as headquarters?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—"No, Sir."

Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju :—"Will the hon. the Revenue Member be pleased to say whether any proceedings have been issued stating that Nidadavole should be the headquarters or was the place in view of the Government as to the headquarters of the district at the time of the bifurcation of the district?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—"My recollection is clear that Government did not commit itself to any particular place."

Famine

Famine conditions in upland taluks of Guntur district.

* 224 *Q.*—Mr. P. Anjaneyulu: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the fact that there is famine in the upland taluks of Guntur district and in several other districts in this Presidency;

(*b*) whether the Government propose to start famine-relief works in any, and if so in what districts; and

(*c*) whether the Government will be pleased to state the amount of famine insurance fund available at present?

A.—(*a*) If by 'Famine' the hon. Member means starvation, the Government have no reason to suppose that any such conditions prevail in any part of the Presidency.

(*b*) In view of the answer to clause (*a*) above, the Government do not propose to start at present relief works in accordance with the provisions of the Famine Code but steps have been taken in those areas of the Presidency in which it has been found necessary to do so to expand ordinary works programmes, to make grants to local boards for the execution of village and other works, and to grant loans freely under the Loans Acts.

(*c*) The amount at the credit of the fund will be Rs. 30,56,856 on 1st April 1927.

Mr. P. Siva Rao :—"With reference to answer to (*a*), may I ask whether famine is defined as starvation?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—"I do not know; but in common English famine does mean starvation."

Mr. P. Siva Rao :—"I want to know whether famine conditions do not prevail in certain districts of the Presidency, especially Bellary? I want to know also what are the conditions laid down before an area is declared to be famine-stricken?"

The hon. the President :—"Order, order. The hon. Member will see that the question refers to Guntur and he cannot raise any supplementary question regarding Bellary."

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Mr. P. Siva Rao :—"Question (*a*) says 'and in several other districts in this Presidency,' and I put my question under that clause."

The hon. the President :—"Unfortunately we are bound by the rules. Rule 9 refers to supplementary questions dealing with matters of fact that are referred to in the answer and not in the question."

Mr. P. Siva Rao :—"I refer to the answer to (*a*) and ask whether famine conditions as defined in the Famine Code prevail in any part of the Presidency, and particularly in the Bellary district, whether those usual tests that are applied to a place before it is declared famine-stricken have been applied, especially in the case of Bellary?"

The hon. the President :—"The hon. Member may proceed with his supplemental question."

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—"The first question is answered by the answer on paper. The second question is whether the test conditions have been satisfied and the answer to that is in the negative."

Mr. P. Siva Rao :—"Is it not a fact that a large number of the labourers in the Bellary district have been migrating to other parts of the country for want of employment in their own district?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—"The Government have no information to that effect."

Mr. P. Siva Rao :—"Is it not a fact that the district board has started some works which may be deemed as test works which have been protecting a large number of labourers in spite of the very much reduced wages?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—"The Government have given the district boards, grants for carrying on certain works in order to give employment to labourers under ordinary conditions but not under the test conditions of the Famine Code."

Mr. P. Siva Rao :—"Do not they satisfy the tests laid down in the Famine Code?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—"No, Sir."

Mr. P. Anjaneyulu :—"May I know whether famine conditions do not prevail in the Ongole taluk of the Guntur district?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—"The answer is in clause (*a*)."

Mr. P. Anjaneyulu :—"In the ordinary sense in which the word famine is understood, I ask whether famine conditions do not prevail where both the crops have failed, where both the monsoons have failed and water scarcity, fodder scarcity and other conditions prevail. I ask whether such conditions do not prevail in the Ongole taluk?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—"The conditions specified by the hon. Member do prevail and I have said so to a previous question."

Mr. P. Anjaneyulu :—"If so, what steps have been taken to give such relief as is available to Government to the poor and almost starved ryots of the Ongole taluk?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—"Sir, that question has been put and fully answered in another connexion. If the hon. Member wants a detailed statement from me I must ask him to give notice."

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Mr. P. Anjaneyulu :—" As regards answer to clause (*b*), in view of the answer to clause (*a*) I should like to know whether Government will start any relief works as understood in the Famine Code. No details need be given at present as the hon. Member said."

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" Government have given grants to local boards to start local works which will give employment to the people. That is in the Ongole taluk. As regards the other parts, they are pushing on with the railway lines which afford employment to many people."

Mr. P. Anjaneyulu :—" As far as the railway line from Ongole to Kottapatnam is concerned, to the best of my information, it is a small line of ten miles or so, at a cost of Rs. 80,000."

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" I shall look into the matter, Sir."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" May I ask the hon. Member what he means by 'starvation', whether it is hopeless underfeeding or starvation out of existence from the world?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" I admit there are certain classes of people who do not have enough."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" Has the Government become aware of the existence of such starvation as would lead to death or anything somewhere near that?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" The conditions are laid down in the Famine Code to which I must refer the hon. Member."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" I know something of the Famine Code. If people turn up for work for 1½ annas or two annas, that I suppose is one of the tests of the Famine Code about the existence of starvation or whatever it is. I dc not fight for words. Unless relief works are started I want to know how Government is in a position to know whether famine exists or not."

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" Certain precedent conditions are laid down in the Famine Code. The hon. Member may refer to them. The Famine Code lays down the conditions on which we shall proceed with test works."

Mr. P. Siva Rao :—" The hon. the Revenue Member seems to have said that famine conditions prevail in certain districts of the Presidency. Now, Sir, I wish to ask what prevents him from declaring those areas famine-stricken and applying all the rules of famine relief provided in the Code?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" I do not admit the premises; therefore I do not accept the conclusion."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" I desire to know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether he considers that there are not groups of villages in the districts of Bellary and Anantapur that would satisfyt he extremist conditions of scarcity enunciated in the Famine Code?"

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The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"I cannot profess to a personal knowledge of such groups of villages. I can only act on the information I have got and it is not to that effect."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"Would the hon. the Revenue Member call for reports on the economic conditions of the villages of Markapur, Pattikonda and other taluks which I have mentioned in my amendment to the Resolution regarding famine in the Bellary district and in the whole of the Anantapur district? I really ask whether the hon. Member is prepared to call for reports from the Collectors whether there are not in the districts specified groups of villages which satisfy the hardest conditions of scarcity according to the Famine Code."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"We do call for periodical reports and when we are satisfied that conditions in particular parts may worsen we get monthly reports. I am not quite sure to what particular matter the hon. Member wants the Collector's attention to be drawn. The economic condition of the villages in many parts of the Presidency, we all know, is very unsatisfactory even in the best of seasons. I do not know whether the hon. Member means to suggest that famine conditions generally prevail in particular villages." 11-30 a.m.

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"In view of the admission that the hon. the Revenue Member has made that even in the best of seasons the condition of certain villages is generally bad . . ."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"In parts, Sir."

Mr. G HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"I do certainly feel that I would be right in asking him to draw the attention of the Collectors definitely to that fact and ask them to send up reports in regard to the particular villages which are considered to be worse affected in their jurisdiction. I was asking this question whether he was prepared to ask for reports from the Collectors in these specific terms."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"I am quite prepared to draw the attention of the Collectors to what the hon. Member has said."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—"The answer seems to suggest that famine relief can only be started when there is a condition of starvation. Is that the test for starting famine relief works? Or, may I know the meaning of famine from the hon. the Revenue Member?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"I must refer the hon. Member to the Famine Code."

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—"May I know whether normal wages were paid when they started work in the Bellary district?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—"May I know the normal wages in those parts?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—"Will the hon. the Revenue Member be pleased to state whether in the areas occupied by the handloom weavers, viz., Aruppukottai, Paramakudi, Dindigul and Salem there has been an abnormal increase of indigenous beggars; whether there has been migration of weavers

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to other places and whether all the weavers have been changing their profession of handloom weaving to do harvesting work for one and a half annas per day ?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Does the question arise out of famine ?"

Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—" Famine conditions in the areas occupied by handloom weavers."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" We have received no report to that effect."

Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—" Will the hon. the Revenue Member be pleased to ask the Collectors of those districts where there is a large population of handloom weavers to report on the famine conditions affecting those weavers ?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" What the hon. Member says will be communicated to the Collector and his attention drawn to it."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Is the hon. the Revenue Member aware of the fact that the reports in the *Fort St. George Gazette* published within the last eight or ten weeks make it plain that in the Ceded districts especially in Kurnool and in parts of Bellary and Anantapur the rates at which the staple grains sell have reached beyond the warning rates according to the Famine Code ?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" The Famine Code lays down no warning rates."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I ask the hon. the Revenue Member whether Collectors are asked to report about any sudden increase in emigration in their areas ?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" May I know what are the tests that are applied before declaring an area as famine-stricken ?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"I do not think that I can enumerate them from memory. They are all laid down in the Famine Code."

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—" Will the hon. the Revenue Member be pleased to consider the question of raising the wages proportionately to the rise in prices of food-grains ?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not follow the question. Will the hon. Member please repeat it ?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will kindly repeat his question."

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—" Will the Government consider the question of asking the local boards to raise the wages of labourers when there is a rise in the price of food-grains ?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" It is not in my charge."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Has the Collector of Salem reported about the abnormal increase in emigration from the Atur taluk in the Salem district ?"

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The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I should like to have notice of the question."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Will he be kind enough to ask the Collector to report on this matter ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" That is one of the points on which his report will contain information."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know if the Government have settled a scheme of famine relief works for the whole of famine-affected areas in the Presidency and will they be pleased to place it on the table of the House. Instead of referring the labourers to the railway companies or to get the help of local boards, has the Government themselves settled any scheme to be undertaken by them directly and may I know further whether the hon. Member will be pleased to lay it on the table ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" There is for every district a list or programme of works to be adopted in the event of famine works being started."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" Has it not yet been settled ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" In every district there is a programme of works maintained even in normal seasons to be put through in the event of famine relief being started."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" It is not a question of programme of work. May I know what specifically, out of those programmes of work has been taken up.? If the hon. Member will be kind enough to get that information from the districts and publish it, I feel that the members of this House would be in a better position to tell the sufferers where they can find employment."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not follow the hon. Member. In answer to a previous question it was made quite clear that the Government have not opened relief works."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" I was asking a question with reference to the answer the hon. the Revenue Member gave to the Member for Kistna. I really wanted to know whether out of the programme of work for every district any definite work has been taken in hand in any district and if so whether the hon. Member was prepared to get reports of such definite works taken up for this year and publish them for the information of the House ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" As I have said already the Government have not opened any relief work. When the time comes they will do so."

Free grazing of cattle in forest reserves of famine-stricken districts.

* 225 Q.—Mr. P. ANJANEYULU : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any representation from famine-stricken districts to throw open certain forest reserves for grazing cattle free during this period of distress ; and

(*b*) whether Government have passed any and what orders thereon ?

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A.—No representations have been received by Government to throw open forest reserves for grazing cattle free. The attention of the hon. Member is however drawn to sections 182, 183 and 184 of the Madras Famine Code which permit Collectors of districts to allow free grazing of cattle in open areas and close reserves. The attention of the Collectors of those districts where the season has been bad has been drawn to these provisions.

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" Sir, the last sentence in the answer to this question runs thus : 'The attention of the Collectors of those districts where the season has been bad has been drawn to these provisions.' May I know how far they have utilized the provisions of sections 182, 183 and 184 in my own district of Guntur ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I have to ask for notice with regard to Guntur. I have information with regard to Kurnool and Cuddapah."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" May I know how they were utilized ? Were any reserves thrown open for grazing ? ".

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Free grazing was permitted in Cuddapah, etc., and in Ongole one of the concessions granted was concession rates on railways for the transport of fodder."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" The hon. Member spoke of throwing open reserves for grazing. Is it a matter in which the Collectors move of their own accord or should they wait until they get mahazars or things of that sort ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" They move of their own accord."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" May I know whether free grazing is permitted in Bellary ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I must ask for notice."

Public Service

Restrictive orders regarding qualifications for public service.

* 226 *Q.*—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state, with reference to G.O. No. 965, Public, dated 16th November 1926—

(*a*) whether there was any general demand from heads of departments for the issue of restrictive orders contained in the Government Order referred to above ;

(*b*) if so, whether the hon. Member will place the correspondence on the table ;

(*c*) if not, whether the hon. Member will state what led to the issue of the said Government Order ;

(*d*) whether the Government have received complaints that the said Government Order will tend to shut out from public service communities that are backward in education such as Muslims and depressed classes ;

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(*e*) whether the Government are aware that the minimum fixed in the Government Order is much higher than that required by the University for eligibility to college course ; and

(*f*) whether the Government propose to reconsider the matter and rescind the Government Order so as to give equal opportunities to all communities for public service?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Government have explained in the Government Order itself the reason for prescribing the standard: "No standard of marks has been prescribed with the result that many persons have been appointed who satisfy the letter of the rule but whose educational qualifications are of the slenderest."

No general demand from heads of departments was received.

(*d*) A few petitions have been received from Muhammadan and Adi-Dravida candidates for exemption from the operation of the Government Order.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) The Government do not propose to cancel the order which is not of the nature suggested.

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" In their answer to clauses (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*), the Government state that no general demand from heads of departments was received. May I know, Sir, how the Government Order came to be conceived when there was no general demand from heads of departments ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" There were two circumstances. One was that some heads of departments had fixed certain standards and Government thought that there should be one standard for all. And the other circumstance was that when in connexion with the question of exemption of unpassed men lists were received of the men whom the heads of departments had exempted, Government found that there were varying views taken as to what constituted qualification and so they thought it would be better to fix a standard applicable to all."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" Is it not the Education department that fixes as to what exactly is the meaning of a man who is an S.S.L.C. ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not follow the question, Sir."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will please repeat the question."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" Is not the hon. Member aware that the Education department fixes what exactly is meant by an S.S.L.C. ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" So far as I know, there is no doubt about it."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" The Education department has stated clearly what S.S.L.C. means."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member may put a supplementary question. He need not give any information."

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Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know whether the hon. Member is not aware that the Education department has fixed what exactly is meant by a candidate who has got an S.S.L.C. ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" That question has already been answered."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I have no doubt they have, Sir."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" The answer says: 'No standard of marks has been prescribed with the result that many persons have been appointed who satisfy the letter of the rule but whose educational qualifications are of the slenderest.' May I know whether there is any examination held before appointments are made and how then does this happen that people with the slenderest qualifications are appointed ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" A low percentage of marks was considered enough."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" There is an . . . "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Please put your supplementary question. Members are not allowed to preface their supplementary questions with any statements."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" There is an examination held before appointments are made. That being so, how do people with slenderest qualifications come to be appointed ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" That is the fault of the appointing officers and it is to cure that this rule is made."

11-45 a.m. Mr. D. THOMAS :—" May I ask the hon. the Home Member whether he will kindly place a copy of the Government Order on the table of the House ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I think, Sir, that it has been placed on the table."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know how the petitions referred in clause (*d*) of the answer have been disposed of ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I must ask for notice."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether educationally backward classes will be exempted from the operation of the Government Order ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" No, Sir. The Government will consider cases where exemption is recommended."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*e*), will the Government call for the information that is required and have light from the Education department or from the University as the case may be ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" The answer is in the negative."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" Does the hon. Member realize that it is a case of hardship for Muslims and other educationally backward classes to satisfy the requirements of the present Government Order ? "

The hon. Mr N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" No, Sir. No hardship at all."

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Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I ask the hon. Member to call for the list of applicants for the various examinations that were held for their selection for the last one or two years or ever since the order was passed ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Examinations for what, Sir ? "

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" Candidates from among the educationally backward communities who appeared for the Staff Selection Board."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" The applications are available to Government if they want them."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know whether the number of candidates has fallen low ever since this order was passed, especially among the backward communities ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I think, Sir, that those who were unsuitable were weeded out."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I ask whether this order has retrospective effect and whether it will affect only those that will enter service hereafter or to persons who are already in service and who hope to be confirmed ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Hereafter. It has effect from the date of the issue of the Government Order."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know whether it applies to persons who will pass the examination hereafter or to those who have already passed and who hope to get appointments ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" This appears to be a new reading of the Government Order. The order is meant to apply to those who obtain appointments in Government service from the date of the order."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Acting or permanent ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Those who have been continuously in service for a certain period have been exempted from its operation."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know for what period ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I forget; I must ask for notice."

Secretariat

Tiffin room for the Secretariat staff.

*227 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Secretariat staff have a room for taking their tiffin ;

(*b*) what are the dimensions of the room now provided ;

(*c*) what is the total number of clerks for whom it is meant ;

(*d*) whether it is sufficient for the number of clerks that must resort to it within a particular hour ; and

(*e*) what arrangements Government propose to make for the required accommodation ?

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A.—(*a*) & (*b*) There is at present no tiffin room for the Secretariat staff. A room in the ground floor of the Secretariat buildings measuring about 20 feet by 10 feet has been placed at the disposal of a caterer for the purpose of serving light refreshments to the staff.

(*c*), (*d*) & (*e*) There are 336 superintendents and clerks in the Secretariat. A scheme for the extension of the Secretariat buildings is under consideration. The scheme includes the provision of adequate tiffin room accommodation for the Secretariat staff.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Sir, may I enquire since what date this tiffin room has been existing ?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"I must ask for notice."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Is that accommodation of 20 feet by 10 feet found sufficient for the caterer to serve tiffin to 350 people ?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"As is already stated in the answer, there is a scheme for provision of additional accommodation."

Depressed Classes

Alleged cheating of the depressed classes in Guntur and Nellore districts.

*228 Q.—Mr. G. PREMAYYA : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many were punished in Guntur and Nellore districts for deceiving the depressed and backward classes by taking bribes from the year 1923 to 1927 ;

(*b*) how many cases are still pending with the Revenue and Police departments in Guntur district ; and

(*c*) if any, in what stage they are ?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Government have no information.

Alleged grievances of Adi-Andhras in Machavaram.

*229 Q.—Mr. G. PREMAYYA : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the quarrel among the Adi-Andhras over a well in Machavaram, Bapatla taluk, Guntur district ;

(*b*) whether the Government sanctioned a fresh water well for the Adi-Andhras of Machavaram ;

(*c*) whether the Labour Tahsildar of Guntur gave permission to sink a salt water well instead of a fresh water one in the said village ;

(*d*) whether the members of the depressed classes have sent appeals to the Government about their grievances ; and

(*e*) whether the Government have redressed their grievances and if not, at what stage the matter is at present ?

A.—(*a*) The Government have no information.

(*b*) No. The Commissioner of Labour sanctions the construction of wells in the districts.

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(c) The Government have no information.

(d) No such appeals have been received.

(e) Does not arise.

Mr. G. PREMAYYA :—" With reference to the answer to clause (d), may I know whether the Government are aware that telegrams after telegrams were sent to the Collector and the Labour Commissioner and will the hon. the Home Member call for the information ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Yes, Sir ; I shall call for the information."

Emigration

Mappillas taken to Andamans.

* 230 Q.—MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Mappillas recently taken to the Andamans ;

(b) how many of them are prisoners ; and

(c) how many of them are the wives and children of the prisoners, how many their other relations and dependants, and how many of these are above the age of 50 and how many below the age of ten ?

A.—(a) 399.

(b) 15.

(c) The total number of members of families of convicts sent to Andamans consisted of 40 men, 152 women and 192 children. The Government have no information in regard to the other particulars called for.

MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur :—" With reference to the answer to clause (c), will the hon. the Member be pleased to say whether among the relations of prisoners there are many who are above the age of 50 ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" We have no information on the subject."

MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur :—" Is it a fact that many of them are below the age of ten ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" No, Sir."

MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur :—" Is it a fact that they were not allowed to be approached by any persons while they were in Madras and Malabar on their way to Andamans ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I have no information on the subject."

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—" With reference to the answer to clause (c), may I know whether the convicts sent to the Andamans have reached the islands ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I suppose so, Sir."

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—" Are they accommodated ?—have they houses to live in there ? "

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The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I suppose so, Sir."

Mr. K UPPI SAHIB :—" Are they not drenched in the unholy climate of those islands ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" They have got accommodation there."

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—" Is it a fact that the Mappillas and their children are asked to build houses in the Andamans ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I do not think so."

Mr. K. P. V. S. MUHAMMAD MEERA ROWTHER :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*c*), will the hon. the Home Member kindly get further report and place it on the table of the House ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I shall consider the question."

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—" With reference to the answer to a supplementary question 'I suppose so', may I ask if, as a matter of fact, these people got houses as soon as they reached the Andamans ? Was no accommodation made to receive them properly there ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I should like to have notice of the question."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask the hon. Member to realize the value of his words, and answer whether as the Home Member of the Madras Government responsible for persisting in this scheme, in spite of the resolution passed by this House, he satisfied himself before sending 399 unfortunate men, women and children to the Andamans, that there was sufficient and adequate accommodation for them, or whether without satisfying himself and without having any information on the matter he can simply say 'I shall make enquiries' ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The Government were satisfied that there was enough accommodation. Since an hon. Member wanted some more information, I said that I would consider the question of getting further information."

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" May I ask the hon. Home Member whether he made no attempts to interview the prisoners when they were taken to Andamans, when they were in Madras ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" No, Sir."

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" Why ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" There was no occasion."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask the hon. the Home Member why there was no occasion to interview these men, when the opinion of this Council was fairly unanimous that the scheme should be abandoned, and whether he did not consider it as part of his duty, for which he is paid handsomely, to go

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and satisfy himself by personal enquiry from his co-religionists whether they were being coerced to go to Andamans or they were going voluntarily ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"On that point I satisfied myself while the Mappillas were here in July 1925."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Does he mean that from the answer which the convicts gave then, he can find out the feelings and opinions of those who went recently ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I did not feel that there was anything wrong."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I ask on what basis the hon. the Home Member was satisfied that nothing was wrong except on the self-complacency of the bureaucracy that everything is right so long as the bureaucracy itself was right ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Notice of the question, Sir." (Loud laughter.)

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN SAHIB :—"Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state, so far as the Mappillas were concerned, whether their deportation has been only voluntary all these years ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I am perfectly sure that it is voluntary."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN SAHIB :—"Was it so on the last occasion when a number of women and children were sent from Malabar to the Andamans ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Yes, Sir ; it was voluntary on that occasion also."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN SAHIB :—"Will the hon. Member be pleased to state if a number of Mappilla prisoners from Andamans were sent to Malabar in order to persuade the Mappillas to go to the Andamans ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sir, persuasion does not mean compulsion."

Number of Mappilla prisoners sent to Andamans.

*231 Q.—MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state how many more Mappilla prisoners the Government propose to send to the Andamans and whether they propose to send any non-Mappilla prisoners ?

A.—It is impossible to state accurately the number of prisoners—both Mappilla and non Mappilla—that are likely to be sent to the Andamans. Those who volunteer to go will be sent to the Islands provided they satisfy the conditions laid down by the Government of India. The scheme is applicable to both Mappilla and non-Mappilla prisoners.

MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur :—"Will the hon. Member be pleased to state how many non-Mappillas were sent to the Andamans up to this time ?"

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" I should like to have notice of the question."

Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur :—" May I know, Sir, whether the prisoners that were sent from Andamans to persuade the Mappillas in Malabar were set free absolutely or whether they were still convicts ? "

Education

Number of Muhammadan officers in the Madras Educational Service.

* 232 Q.—Muhammad Khadir Mohidin Sahib Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total strength of the Madras Educational Service (both permanent and temporary);

(*b*) the number of Muhammadan officers in the Madras Educational Service ; and

(*c*) the proportion of Muhammadan officers in the service as compared with the proportion of Muhammadans to the population in the province ?

A.—(*a*) The total number of posts in the Madras Educational Service (Men's Branch) is 57 permanent and 14 temporary.

(*b*) Four (two permanent and two officiating).

(*c*) The percentage of Muhammadan officers to the total strength is 5·63, while that of the Muhammadan population to the total population of the Presidency is 6·69 according to the census of 1921.

Grant for the Deaf and dumb school.

* 233 Q.—Mr. L. K. Tulasiram : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total grant sanctioned for the school for the deaf and dumb for the financial years 1924–25, 1925–26 and 1926–27 ;

(*b*) the date when the sanctioned grant was paid to the Principal in the above years ; and

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the sanctioned grant for the current year has not been paid up to date in spite of repeated demands from the Lady Principal ?

A.—(*a*) The hon. Member apparently refers to the school for the deaf and dumb at Madura. The school received a grant of Rs. 698 in 1924–25. It lost its recognition in 1925–26 and no grant was paid in 1925–26 or 1926–27.

(*b*) The grant for 1924–25 was passed for payment on 20th March 1925.

(*c*) The Director of Public Instruction has not received any communication from the Principal in 1926–27 regarding recognition or grant.

Mr. L. K. Tulasiram :—" Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to answer the questions with reference to the Deaf and dumb school at Madura ? "

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The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" As the hon. Member does not give an idea of what he meant, I am not in a position now to give any answer."

Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—" If there is any defect in the question, I think the authorities should have written to the Member instead of waiting for three months and giving information relating to Madura."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member may give notice of the question."

Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—" I give notice now."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member has to give notice of the question in writing to the office."

Local Boards

Fines imposed on subordinates by District Board Presidents.

*234 Q.—Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) if there is any limit for the amount of fines to be imposed on the subordinates by the presidents of district boards ; and

(b) whether it was brought to his notice that fines to the extent of Rs. 50 or so have been inflicted on subordinates drawing a salary of less than a hundred rupees by the President of Cuddapah District Board ?

A.—(a) No.

(b) No.

Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO :—" May I know whether the fines may be levied to any extent ? Is there no limit ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" As the rule stands at present, that is so."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" May I know whether there is no proposal to fix a limit ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" There is no such proposal at present."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Am I to understand therefore, as the rule stands at present, it is intended by the Government to leave the discretion to the presidents absolutely and unfettered for all time to come ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I shall have that matter considered."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I ask if there is any proposal to fix the limit up to which fines can be levied ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I want notice."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" Will the hon. the Minister consider the proposal to limit the fine to be imposed to a certain maximum ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I shall have that matter considered."

Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO :—" Will the hon. the Minister call for a statement of the amount of fines inflicted by district board presidents so that he may have control over it ? "

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The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The subordinates have a right of appeal to the Board."

Formation of special committees by District Board Presidents.

*235 Q.—Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government have received any suggestion that the presidents of district boards should form special committees to consider the nature, urgency and importance of the roads, culverts, bridges, etc., to be built out of the amount of railway cess that has been placed at the disposal of the boards for the above purpose and whether such suggestion will be favourably considered ?

A.—No such suggestion has been received by the Government.

Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO :—" May I ask the hon. the Minister to state if any suggestion has been made for the formation of such committees? In view of the fact that large amounts are placed at the disposal of the presidents, will the hon. Minister consider the question ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I will have that matter carefully considered."

Agriculture

Opening of new agricultural schools in Andhra districts.

*236 Q.—The ZAMINDAR OF GOLLAPALLI: With reference to my supplementary question to question No. 31 answered on 25th January 1927, will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to consider the opening of more schools of agriculture in Andhra districts ; and

(b) whether they propose also to open and try travelling agricultural schools to educate the masses of the province ?

A.—(a) Not at present.

(b) There is no such proposal before the Government.

The ZAMINDAR OF GOLLAPALLI :—" Will the hon. the Minister consider the desirability of opening more schools ? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I am unable to say anything just at present."

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" With reference to the answer to clause (b), will the hon. the Minister consider the desirability of opening such schools ? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I do not know what exactly is meant by clause (b). If it relates to what I understand is taking place on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, viz., that some wagons are fitted and taken from place to place, that is a matter which is engaging my attention. If it is anything different, I do not know about it."

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Excise

Closure of arrack shops in Attur taluk.

* 237 *Q.*—Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the period for which the arrack shops in Attur taluk of Salem district have been closed;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that no inordinate difficulties or troubles have been experienced by the closure of the said shops;

(*c*) whether there is any proposal to extend this trial in some more taluks of the district; and

(*d*) the total number of toddy shops in the Salem district and the income derived therefrom in the year 1922 and in 1926?

A.—(*a*) The arrack shops were first closed for a period of three years from 1st April 1924. The Government have since directed the continuance of the experimental closure of the shops for a further period of two years.

(*b*) No. On the other hand it is reported that excise crime has increased in the Attur and adjoining taluks and that the people in the taluk have complained to the local officers about the closure of the shops.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The number of shops sold and the income derived for the leases 1922-23 and 1925-26 are as shown below:—

Year.				Number of shops.	Revenue.
					RS.
1922–23	...	...	...	508	17,80,300
1925–26	...	...	...	499	15,27,266

Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, with regard to clause (*b*), will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to place the report on the table of this House?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I think the Excise Commissioner's report was placed on the table of the House yesterday, Sir."

Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU:—"With reference to the answer to clause (*b*), will the hon. the Minister be pleased to state whether there is any report in regard to the other crimes in the taluk and whether there has been any decrease in crimes other than excise crime?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I have nothing to do with that, Sir."

Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU:—"I want to know, Sir, whether there is a decrease in other crimes in the taluk."

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UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Irrigation

Inadequacy of the supply channel from Sagileru anicut.

238 Q.—Mr. A. Parasurama Rao: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the supply channel rising from Sagileru anicut, near Kalasapadu village of Badvel taluk in Cuddapah district, is intended to supply water to the irrigation tanks of Mavillapalli, Mahanandipalli, Chinthalapalli and lastly Porumamilla villages;

(b) whether the capacity of the channel has been found to be too inadequate and as a consequence Porumamilla tank, which is the last and the biggest one, does not get sufficient supply of water;

(c) whether it is true that the anicut was designed to carry a larger quantity of water, but subsequently the anicut was narrowed;

(d) whether any representations were made by the people who are affected by it to increase the capacity of the supply channel; if so, what has been done in the matter; and

(e) if no steps have been taken till now whether the Government propose to depute a Special Executive Engineer to inspect and report on the matter?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The capacity of the channel is no doubt insufficient to utilize the floods in the Sagileru to the fullest possible extent but the local officers consider that the tanks under it are at present sufficiently provided for in the matter of their supplies.

(c) The Government are not aware of this.

(d) No representations have been received by Government.

(e) No.

Forests

Ryots' forests in Cuddapah, Kurnool, etc.

239 Q.—Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to lay on the table a list of ryots' forests in the four districts of Cuddapah, Kurnool, Anantapur and Bellary as reclassified in the year 1924–25?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the lists printed on pages 28—33 of G.O. No. 703, Development, dated 12th May 1925, which was placed on the Editors' Table.

Education

Alleged proposal to close some secondary schools in Cuddapah district.

240 Q.—Mr. A. Parasurama Rao: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government are proposing to close the incomplete secondary schools, opened at Rayachoti, Badvel and Kamalapuram in Cuddapah district owing to the smallness of the strength, and the schools not being self-supporting;

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(*b*) whether it is a fact that the local authorities have protested against such a course being taken;

(*c*) what was the decision of the Government in the matter;

(*d*) what was the recommendation of the District Educational Officer and the Director of Public Instruction in the matter;

(*e*) how many incomplete secondary schools there are in the districts of Bellary, Kurnool and Anantapur;

(*f*) whether they are self-supporting or is the net cost of such schools being paid by the Government; and

(*g*) whether there is any great disparity in the strength of such incomplete secondary schools and that of the schools of the Cuddapah district?

A.—(*a*), (*c*) & (*d*) The Director of Public Instruction has been asked to investigate the need for the continuance of the schools in question. His report has not yet been submitted to Government.

(*b*) The Government have no information.

(*e*), (*f*) & (*g*) The hon. Member is referred to the subsidiary tables appended to Volume II of the Report on Public Instruction in the Madras Presidency for 1925–26.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II

REFLECTIONS OF THE "MADRAS MAIL" ON THE MADRAS COUNCIL.

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"Mr. President, Sir, yesterday I mentioned to you and I felt it was my duty to bring to your notice what had been brought to my attention, namely, that, in a paper published in Madras, there appeared a paragraph in which there were certain suggestions which may be considered as impugning the impartiality of the President. It is, I think, conceded and I think it would be the unanimous desire of the House that every endeavour should be made to check any attempt to impugn the impartiality of the Chair, which impartiality is the foundation of the rights and dignity of this House and is conducive and is a *sine qua non* to good administration and proper legislation. After notice was taken of that matter, the newspaper in question, namely, the *Madras Mail* has, as is probably known, published a statement in which it repudiates all intention of drawing any attention to any alleged partiality or derogation from the highest standards of presidential rectitude, and in that point of view, with the assertion that this House will always resent such unfounded statements made in journals, my feeling is, and I think in that respect I shall be sharing the feelings of my friends on the floor of the House, that we might leave the matter there." 12 noon.

* Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—"Sir, I entirely associate myself with the remarks that the hon. the Leader of the House made with regard to the article which appeared in the *Madras Mail* on or about the 28th of January last. It is no doubt, Sir, a delicate and difficult matter to define the conduct of the public press in relation to this House and its distinguished

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President; but as has been very rightly pointed out by the hon. the Leader of the House, so far as this particular article is concerned, I do not think it comes within the range of articles where it is difficult to distinguish between criticism and attack. It accuses this House of abusing the privilege of supplemental questions and it attributes this abuse to your somewhat lenient conduct. Sir, you are too much of a parliamentarian to be swayed away by criticisms of this sort in regard to allowing hon. Members of this House to make full use of their privileges, and perhaps the only important privilege which hon. Members are given here. More than that, it further institutes a comparison between the Indian Legislative Assembly and the Madras Legislative Council and draws a comparison most unfavourable to this House by saying that this House lacks completely in the dignity which characterizes the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. That seems to me, Sir, to be a very bad attack against the dignity of this House. I do not propose to take the same stand as the *Madras Mail*; but I think every one of us will agree that if such a comparison is instituted, the comparison will not be unfavourable to the Madras Legislative Council. Sir, no doubt, the *Madras Mail* has offered some sort of explanation yesterday evening so far as its comments in respect of you are concerned, but I do not feel that the paper has said anything with regard to the particular sentence that the proceedings of this House lack in dignity. However, having regard to the fact that some notice has been taken by this House, and hoping that the paper will conduct itself better, I do not wish to make any further suggestion than accept the sentiments expressed by the hon. the Leader of the House."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, having regard to the observations that fell from my hon. Friend, the Leader of the House, viz., that the editor of the offending paper has subsequently written, though not an actual apology, an article from which an apology may be inferred, I think the best course in the circumstances is, as my friend suggested, to drop the whole matter."

III

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1927-28 -cont.

* Rao Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, we are glad that, so far as this Presidency is concerned, after the Reforms were introduced, although five years of financial stringency have elapsed, we are now on the threshold of a surplus budget. We have reason to feel the hope, may I take it, the full hope of the remission of our contributions being completely released so far as our province is concerned for this year. We are now in the position of a Council with a large outstanding balance to our credit and not knowing how to dispose of it. While I must congratulate the hon. the Finance Member for the lucid way in which he has set out the various transactions, it is really disappointing to see that there is nothing like constructive suggestion or proposal as to how to utilize the balances now available, especially in respect to our real paymasters, the villagers, the ryots, who are the mainstay of our finances. I expected, Sir, especially in the present budget, that with ideas of rural reconstruction, with ideas of rural development, something would be forthcoming from the Government, from the hon. the Finance Member and from the Ministry, as to what suggestions they have got to make with regard to the carrying out of those objects. On the other hand, Sir, what we find is a

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vague statement that we have on hand a balance to our credit; it may be that the whole amount will be required for ameliorative schemes or it may be that only a portion of it will be utilized. I take it, Sir, that the Ministry will insist for the whole of the surplus being utilized by the Transferred department, especially for the benefit and amelioration of the rural people of the country, the ryots, who stand sorely in need of help.

"Sir, it is disappointing to find that, so far as medical relief is concerned, a programme which was inaugurated during the last Ministry of bringing to the door of the villagers medical relief by starting rural dispensaries, has for some reason or other not been very well considered by the present Ministry of Public Health. Really, Sir, I do not understand why it is that the Minister for Public Health had not found it convenient to press for a further programme of starting a number of medical dispensaries for villages being added on to the budget for the next year. In answer to a question yesterday, he said that out of 309 dispensaries sanctioned, about 259 have been already started and 50 have to be started. Well, Sir, I do not know if it is his idea that no more dispensaries are necessary; but surely, it cannot be said that we are giving sufficient medical relief, and it is up to him, before we finally vote on the budget, to come forward with a proposal in the direction of sanctioning or getting the sanction of this Council for starting more village dispensaries than have been sanctioned already.

"Then, Sir, with regard to village communications, we have a set-back. We had 6 lakhs and odd of grant in 1925–26 for village roads, a portion of which was spent and the other portion of which lapsed. In the next year, we had promise of 6 lakhs, and in view of the large expenditure during the previous year, a smaller grant was given, but to-day, Sir, we stand committed in the budget to not even 6 lakhs, but to 5 lakhs. I hope the Ministry will examine the reasons for reducing even this 6 lakhs, whether the grant for the village communications for this year has not been spent and why it is that they want only 5 lakhs now. Is it the hon. Ministers' opinion that the local boards could not spend more than 5 lakhs on village communications or do they think that 5 lakhs is quite enough? I find in the manifesto issued by the Ministerialists' party published in the *Madras Mail* yesterday that they are going to initiate the work of rural reconstruction with special reference to the improvement of agriculture and the promotion of the welfare of the agricultural population and train them in the art of rural self-government. I hope, Sir, that they will stick to their words and will give greater amounts for this purpose; that they will give not 5 lakhs but 50 lakhs for the prosperity of the village ryots and for the improvement of sanitation, road communications and water-supply. At this stage, Sir, I have to make one suggestion. As a member of the Local Self-Government Advisory Committee, I suggested that the Government when they sanction grants for village roads and water-supply should see that the grants do not lapse at the end of the year and that even, the unspent balances should be carried over to next year. I hope, Sir, that if that suggestion is accepted, the taluk boards will be spared the necessity of surrendering their unspent balances. I hope that the present Ministry will profit by the experience of the past and constitute whatever is given for village roads and water-supply into a fund which would not lapse to the general balances but would be carried on from year to year.

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"Next, Sir, we find on a closer analysis of the budget, that so far as taxes are concerned, we have been taxing the people more than what is absolutely necessary for the purpose of carrying on the administration. The only reason for the enhanced taxes during the years, 1921 to 1926, was the provincial contribution. We are thankful to the hon. the Finance Member for giving us an idea of the receipts and charges of the province for the last five years, excluding provincial contributions. On page 8 of the Budget Memorandum, you will find that in 1920–1921 the revenue exceeded expenditure by 412 lakhs; in 1921–1922 by 279 lakhs, in 1922–1923 by 337 lakhs; in 1923–1924 by 359 lakhs, in 1924–1925 by 323 lakhs and in 1925–1926 by 299 lakhs; and in 1926–1927 we are going to have, according to the revised estimates, a balance of about 98 lakhs. Sir, if the annual contributions are released, we will have about 230 lakhs to our credit as the opening balance. Or, if the contributions are not to be remitted, we shall still have 66 lakhs. Is it too much, Sir, for this Council to ask, if really the Government are anxious to do something for the people of the country, that 50 lakhs should be set apart as village development fund for the purpose of helping the villagers in the matter of their communications, water-supply and sanitation? May I hope, Sir, that this appeal of mine will not fall flat on the ears of the Ministry or on the ears of the Finance Committee, the majority of elected members of whom belong to the Swarajist party who say that they would do all they can for the improvement of the village conditions, etc? (Hear, hear.) Then, Sir, so far as the revenues are concerned, we are raising to the extent of two to three crores in excess of our actual expenditure; and once the provincial contributions are removed, we will have nearly three crores of excess revenue over expenditure.

12-15 p.m. "What is to be done with that? In the course of a few days at any rate before the close of this meeting we will be able to know whether the contribution will be completely released or not. If we be fortunate enough to get this sum of Rs. 116 lakhs released, what will be the best method of utilizing it will be the question. I have no doubt that I am discussing but a contingency which is fairly certain to happen. Sir, I suggest that from 1921–26, we have raised the taxes on court fees, stamp duties and registration and according to the budget memorandum, we find an increase of 47 lakhs under Stamps, three lakhs under Registration, thus making a total of Rs. 50 lakhs. I suggest that these duties ought to be first decreased before even we consider how to utilize the surplus. It is our duty not to tax the people more than is absolutely necessary and see that this additional taxation goes before the end of the next year. To the extent of Rs. 50 lakhs the burden of the taxpayer will be released. If there are other alternative proposals which will necessitate fresh taxation, it will be for the Council to consider the proposals on their merits. I know, Sir, that before the Finance Committee there is the question of how to substitute the loss of revenue from Excise if excise reform were to be carried on. I am sure that the Finance Committee will be able to solve it and if they come to the conclusion that any fresh taxation is necessary, I for my part and I am sure the House as well, will be willing to bear the burden sought to be imposed. But till such a proposal materialises, it is the duty of this Council to insist that the fresh taxation imposed between the years 1921–26 should be immediately given up and that the taxpayer to that extent should be relieved of his burden."

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" Then, Sir, we have got in this budget a special problem to deal with. I read in the *Mail* of last night in the editorial column: 'the towns are insistent beggars and they have special means of securing attention to their needs.' Nowhere is it more clearly exemplified than in the present budget. Look, Sir, to the Civil Works budget. Right through the whole of it, whether it is improvement in brick mortar or in other directions it is either in the metropolis or in the big towns. What about the villages ? A scanty provision of Rs. 2·5 for village water-supply and 5 lakhs for rural roads. Nothing further. I ask, Sir, why this apathy for villages, why this anxiety for towns ? It is necessary that there should be some sense of proportion in the manner of spending these amounts. In fact, about 18 lakhs are sanctioned for drainage schemes in towns, while a poor allotment of 2·5 lakhs is given for village water-supply. Even there, what about the distribution of this amount ? We are called upon to give a three years' programme. Distributing this small amount, I believe that each taluk board will not get more than Rs. 1,000 for which small amount they are asked to give a three years' programme. Either there is a mind on the part of the Government to help the villages or there is not. If it is to be merely an eye-wash to call for a three years' programme and give us but a small provision of Rs. 1,000 for each taluk board area, I would ask what guarantee is there that the Government would give us more if a programme is sent. I request the hon. Minister to come forward with a more liberal proposal to help the villagers more than till now was the case. Again, Sir, we have got a proposal to remodel the General Hospital. About two or three years ago, I raised the same issue in this House that towns were being favoured to the prejudice of villages. I am at a loss to find out the reason why the taluk headquarter hospitals, for instance, are not given the necessary attention. Have not the Government before them a scheme that taluk headquarter hospitals should be taken up by Government so that they may become model hospitals in the several areas ? I request that, before the hon. Minister commits himself to a scheme of spending 39 lakhs on the remodelling of the General Hospital, he will consider and satisfy himself that the headquarter hospitals in the mufassal are in a proper condition. In order to benefit a population of five lakhs in this city and 300 patients in the General Hospital, they have proposed an allotment of Rs. 40 lakhs to the prejudice of the 45 millions of people in the mufassal. I ask whether this is what we should do. I only hope that even if the contingency happens that at the detailed discussion the House is not able to discuss and give its definite opinion on this matter, the hon. the Minister will consider the desirability of postponing a scheme of that sort until, at any rate, the claims of the villages are met. I hope that this appeal will not fall on flat ears but will receive the attention that it deserves."

*Mr. C. Obi Reddi :—" Mr. President, Sir, in the general discussion on the budget yesterday and to-day connoisseurs on the one side and the other have been either hailing the budget as a very good one or condemning it as an ominous and reckless one. But, judging the budget from the layman's point of view, it comes to be this, Sir. The increase in the revenue this year over last year's is Rs. 77,000, while the increase in the expenditure is 106·32 lakhs. One should not grudge the increase in the revenue if it only does not throw any extraordinary burden on the taxpayers. I am afraid the taxpayer is already overburdened beyond the limits of perfect recovery. When we

consider the expenditure side of things, I am sorry to say that the taxpayer has not got his proportionate return. Considering the question item by item, it is surprising to note that not much or even adequate compensation is afforded to him. Take, for instance, the branch of irrigation, or education, medical relief, public health or industries. I do not now propose to go into every item of these for want of time, but I propose to confine myself to only one issue, that of irrigation. Under Irrigation 15-1, a sum of Rs. 59,73,700 has been allotted while under Irrigation 15, a sum of Rs. 26,62,700 has been allotted. May I just say that this sum is quite inadequate compared to the large sum that the ryot has been contributing to the large revenues of this province? In connexion with this, I may also be permitted to state to this House that not only the sum is inadequate, but also some parts of the Presidency have been starved as it were on the side of irrigation to the benefit of others. I may particularly mention the district of Anantapur, in fact, the Ceded districts as a whole. I may perhaps be considered parochial in this respect, but I cannot help being so. I am sorry that we, inhabiting the Ceded districts, have not been so fortunate as those in Salem, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly or Tanjore for, for the mere asking of it, they have had the Mettur project. At any rate, their struggle has not been so much and so long-standing as ours for the Tungabhadra project, for, our struggle has been raging for sixty years, even more than that I am told. The Ceded districts, I may take them as one group. The physical features of one district apply to those of another. They form as a whole a barren tract, treeless and rocky. Here and there no doubt rich black cotton soil there is, but on the whole they have been characterized by experts to be barren and unyielding. The monsoons, both the north-east and the south-west, have been conspiring as it were against these unfortunate districts. So much so that from the year 1896 there have been famines after famines even to the present day. It will not be very much for me to invite the attention of the House that within the last three decades and odd there have been no less than ten big famines in this area. In 1892 there was a severe famine, again another in 1897, a third in 1901 and 1902, perhaps quite as severe as the previous ones, and once again in 1908 and 1909. Perhaps the severest was that of 1924, when cattle died on the roadside as they were going along to the nearest hill for pasture, and people had to leave the districts to neighbouring provinces like Mysore and Bombay in search of labour. If these were years of famine, years of scarcity have intervened many a time. As a result, the resources of the average ryot have been crippled enormously and successive famine conditions have reduced the economic condition of the ryot to the lowest ebb. In these circumstances, is it not right, Sir, that this Government should lift its little finger to come to the rescue of the ryot by certain irrigation schemes which would ameliorate his conditions? The hon. the Second Minister, whom I do not see here now, and the hon. the third Minister know the conditions prevailing in the districts. They have had occasions to tour in the four districts in connexion with the drafting of the report of the Irrigation Bill Committee. And I appeal to them, Sir, to give their earnest attention to the matter. I am not guilty of exaggeration in the least when I say that there are a good lot of people in these districts who did not have a square meal a day on all the 365 days of the year. It is therefore necessary for the Government at this stage to come to the aid of these people and with their large revenues improve their economic position and provide irrigation facilities. In a Government Order, dated 25th June 1925, the Government constituted a committee called the

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Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee with the hon. the Third Minister as the President thereof. I believe the hon. the Second Minister was also a member of the committee. I believe they were asked to review the existing conditions of irrigation in the districts, to report about small schemes that were worthy of investigation and also to advise the Government whether it was desirable to concentrate the Government's attention on large schemes such as the Tungabhadra project.

"Well, Sir, for the purpose of refreshing the memory of the hon. the Second Minister and the hon. the Third Minister, I may just say that on the first question, namely, that dealing with the existing condition of irrigation in the districts, they recommended that larger maintenance grants were to be given for the minor irrigation works as they said that the appropriation of monies for those works were quite unsatisfactory hitherto. On the question of spring channels, they said that wherever it was necessary that a big irrigation work had to be undertaken, it was no good thing to the ryots to undertake those works, for the ryot was very much crippled down, but that the Government should undertake them at its own cost. But when they came to the major irrigation works, they put in various suggestions and those suggestions are contained in their final report annexed to G.O. No. 1973, Irrigation, dated the 16th December 1926. 12-30 p.m.

"Well, Sir, coming to the second point of reference, namely, to report on these small works, they said there were five minor schemes which had been investigated by them which required the immediate attention of the Government, and they also said that there were six schemes or minor irrigation which could be investigated and taken up as time permitted. Well, Sir, the Government have shelved the whole matter.

"On the third point of reference, namely, the feasibility and advisability of taking up the Tungabhadra project, they have in one voice without even a single Member dissenting said that for the amelioration of the condition of the Ceded districts it was necessary first and foremost of all that a project of the nature of the Tungabhadra project should be undertaken at the earliest opportunity. But where are we now, to-day? In the report annexed to the Government Order we are told that the matter has been referred to the Executive Engineer or Chief Engineer for Irrigation and the Board of Revenue and the Director of Agriculture for their reports. Well, Sir, not content with that, when on the floor of this House my hon. Friend Mr. Koti Reddi put an interpellation, the Government gave another unsatisfactory reply. This is the answer we have got from the Government Member concerned, and the answer is clear about the matter. It says that on the question of taking up the minor projects, the Government have decided not to take them up; and on the point of taking up the Tungabhadra project, the Government have said that they wait to see the report of the Director of Agriculture and the Chief Engineer for Irrigation. Well, Sir, in the meanwhile, pending receipt of those answers or reports from them, are we not to have even these little projects that have been recommended for adoption by the committee? And the unfortunate note of warning has been sounded by the hon. the Law Member, namely, that till the final disposal of the whole question, the primary one, the subordinate matter of minor irrigation schemes being taken up by the Government could not be attended to. Well, Sir, as I go through the Appendix III annexed to this Budget Memorandum, I find one item, item 17,

relating to the investigation regarding the Tungabhadra project and when I read also the amount of money that has been allotted for that purpose, I see that it is a sham sum of Rs. 25,000. Compared with the grandeur of the undertaking and the magnitude of the Tungabhadra project, this very small sum of Rs. 25,000 is a meagre and microscopic one, if I may say so. These four districts have been long looking to the Government to do something to ameliorate their bad condition. These four districts may be characterised as the sick patients of this Presidency, I may say the chronic sick patients of this Presidency and they cannot afford to wait any longer . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member has exceeded his time limit."

* Swami A. S. SAHAJANANDAM then made the following speech :—

"1. *நிலம் தர்க்காஸ்து.*

அரசாங்கத்தார்க்கு நன்றி.

"(a) நீண்ட நாள்களாக இந்தியாவில் எங்கள் (ஆதித்திராவிடர்) வகுப்பு எக்காரணத்தாலோ மிகவும் தாழ்ந்த நிலைமையிலிருந்து வருகிறது. பிரிட்டிஷ் கவர்ன்மெண்டு இந்தியாவிற்கு வந்து சுமார் நூற்றைம்பது வருஷங்களாகியும் இன்னும் நாங்கள் தாழ்ந்த நிலைமையிலேயே இருந்து வருகிறோம். நாங்கள் முன்னுக்கு வரவேண்டுமாயின், எங்களுக்கு அன்னமும், அறிவும் அவசியமானது. அன்னத்திற்குக் காரணம் நிலங்களே. எங்களுக்கு நிலங்களில்லாமையால் வேண்டிய அன்னத்தை அடைய முடியாமலிருந்தோம். ஆனால் சீர்திருத்தம் வழங்க முற்பட்ட சமீபக்காலந் தொட்டு, அரசாங்கத்தார் ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் நிலங்களைத் தர்க்காஸ்து மூலம் பெறுவதற்குத் தடையாயிருந்த அண்டை கொல்லை பாத்தியமென்னும் கேது பாத்தியத்தை ரத்துசெய்து ஆதித்திராவிடர்களுக்கென நிலங்களை ஒதுக்கிவைக்கவேண்டுமெனக் கட்டளையிட்டு ஒதுக்கிவைத்த நிலங்களை ஆதித்திராவிடர்களுக்கு அடமானஞ்செய்து வந்தார்கள். அதற்காக யானும் எங்கள் சமூகமும் கருணை நிறைந்த அரசாங்கத்தார்க்கு நன்றி பாராட்டுகிறோம்.

கொடுத்த நிலங்களுக்கு விலை வாங்கக்கூடாது.

"(b) சமீப காலத்தில் கவர்ன்மெண்டுக்கு ஏற்பட்ட பணமுடையாலோ ? வேறெக் காரணத்தாலோ ? கடந்த மூன்று வருஷத்திற்குள் அடமானம் செய்திருக்கும் நிலங்கள் தீர்ப்பாயக்கூடியதாயின் அடமானங்களை இரத்து செய்து நிலங்களுக்கு விலை வாங்க வேண்டுமென உத்தரவிட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இலவசமாக உணவு தருவோமென விளம்பரம் செய்து ஒருவனுக்கு உணவு கொடுத்து அவன் உண்ட பிறகு நீர் உண்ட உணவிற்கு விலை கொடென்றால் அது நியாயமாகுமா ? ஆதித்திராவிடர்கட்கு நிலங்களை இலவசமாகக் கொடுத்து உடனே பயிரிட வேண்டுமென்று உத்தரவளித்தால் ஏழை ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் என்ன செய்வார்கள் ? நிலங்களை தமக்கு உறுதிப்படுத்திக்கொள்ள கடன்கள் வாங்கியோ மனைவி கழுத்திலிருந்த தாலியை அடமானம் வைத்தோ பணச் செலவு செய்தும் சரீர சிரமப்பட்டும் நிலங்களைப் பண்படுத்தி பயிரிடும் நிலைமைக்குக் கொண்டுவந்த பின்னர் அதற்கு விலை வாங்குவ

4th March 1927] [Swami A. S. Sahajanandam]

தென்ருல் பணம் செலவழிந்தபடியால் விட முடியாமலும், விலை கொடுக்க பணமின்மையால் அரசாங்கத்தார்க்கு சமாதானம் செய்ய முடியாமலும் ஏழை ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் மனம் எவ்வாறு கொதிக்குமென்பதனைச் சொல்லவும் வேண்டுமா ? (தாம் உட்கார்ந்திருக்கும் ஆசனத்தைக் காட்டி) இதோ இந்த பெஞ்சு வேலை செய்யாத மரமாயிருக்குங்கால் இதன் விலை ஆறணுவாயிருக்கலாம். பெஞ்சாக வேலை செய்த பின்னர் அறுபது ரூபாய்கள் பொறுமானதாகக் காணப்படுகிறது. அதுபோல் முதலில் பத்து ரூபாய்கள் பொருத நிலத்தை ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் பெற்று பணச் செலவிட்டு கஷ்டப்பட்ட பிறகு அது நல்ல விலை பெறுமான நிலைமைக்கு வருகிறது. வந்த பிறகு விலைவாங்க முயல்வதைக்கண்டு ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் திகிலடைகிருர்கள், நடுங்குகிருர்கள். எங்களுக்குள்ள அருமையான இராஜ விசுவாசத்தையும் அது கெடுக்கிறது. சாதாரணமாக எனக்குரிய ஒரு பொருளை நான் எழுத்து மூலமாக எழுதி ரிஜிஸ்தர் செய்து கொடுத்துவிட்டு, பிறகு அதை வாங்க முயன்ருல் கருணை நிறைந்த அரசாங்கமே இது தவறென நியாயஞ் செய்யும். அரசாங்கத்தாரே முதலில் இலவசமாகக் கொடுத்து ஏழைகள் கஷ்டப்பட்ட பிறகு அதை வாங்க முயல்வார்களானுல் இதற்கு எங்குசென்று நியாயம் கேட்பது. சிதம்பரம் தாலூக்கா வடதலைக் குளம் பு. கொளக்குடி முதலான விடங்களில் இவ்வாறு செய்ய முயல்வதாக அறிகிறேன். கொடுத்துவிட்ட நிலங்களுக்கு விலை வாங்காமலிருந்தால் எங்கள் சமூகத்தார் சந்தோஷமடைவார்கள்.

சிவார்ஜிமா நிலங்களை இலவசமாகவே அடமானம் செய்யவேண்டும்.

"(c) கருணை நிறைந்த அரசாங்கத்தார் ஆதித்திராவிடர்கட்கு புதுவதாக நிலங்கள் கொடுத்துவரும் இக்காலத்தில், சில வருஷங்களுக்கு முன்னரே காடுகளை அழித்து, மேடுபள்ளங்களைத் திருத்தி, சிவார்ஜிமாவாக சில ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் சில இடங்களில் பயிரிட்டு வந்திருக்கிருர்கள். அப்படி பயிரிட்டு வரும் நிலங்களுக்கும் விலை வாங்க முயன்று வருகிருர்கள். சென்ற மாதம் கடலூர் தாலூக்கா பூண்டியாங்குப்பத்தில் இவ்விதமாக பயிரிட்டு வந்துள்ள சில ஆதித்திராவிடர்களின் நிலங்களுக்காக அதிகாரிகள் நோட்டீஸ் கொடுத்ததின்பேரில் யானும் எனது சகோதர அங்கத்தினர் பூண்டியாங்குப்பம் கனம் இராமச்சந்திர படையாச்சியவர்களும் கனம் தென்னுற்காடு ஜில்லா கலெக்டர் துரையவர்களைக் கண்டோம். கலெக்டர் அவர்கள் விலையைச் சிறிது குறைத்துப் போடுவதாகச் சொன்னுர்கள். கலெக்டர் அவர்களிடம் பேசும்போது போர்டு உத்தரவாகையால் சட்டத்தைத்திருத்த ஆங்கேயே முயலவேண்டுமென்ருர்கள். ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் பழமையாகவே சிவார்ஜ்ஜிமாவாகப் பயிரிட்டுவரும் நிலங்களை விலைவாங்காமலே அவர்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கும்படி உத்தரவாகப் பிரார்த்திக்கிறேன். இவ்வாறு பூண்டியாங்குப்பம், கடலூர், விருத்தாஜலம் முதலான விடங்களில் நடைபெறுகின்றன.

நிலங்களுக்கு அதியாய விலை போடக்கூடாது.

"(d) ஆதித்திராவிடர்களின் பேரை நினைந்தால் நிலங்களின் விலைகள் மிகவும் அளவு கடந்து ஏறிவிடுகின்றன. விருத்தாஜலம் தாலுக்கா சேப்பாக்கம் என்னும் கிராமத்தில் ஓர் ஆதித்திராவிடன் சிவார்ஜ்ஜிமாவாகப் பயிரிட்டு வரும் நிலத்திற்கு பக்கத்திலுள்ள நிலங்களின் விலையை

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விட மிகவும் அதிகமான விலையைக் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென உத்தரவிட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இது விஷயம் நடவடிக்கையிலிருக்கிறது. சிதம்பரம் தாலூக்கா சத்திவிளாகம் என்னும் ஊரில் ஆதித்திராவிடர்கட்கு மனைக்கட்டுவாங்கியுள்ளார்கள். அதை பக்கத்து நிலத்தின் விலையைவிட சுமார் ஆயிர ரூபாய்கள் அதிகப்படுத்தி வாங்கியிருக்கிறார்கள். சமீபத்தில் அங்கு ஒரு கான்பரன்ஸு நடைபெற்றது. லேபர் டிப்பார்டுமெண்டார் மனைக்கட்டுக்காக வாங்கிய நிலத்தின் பக்கத்து நிலத்தை ஒரு குடியானவர் சமீப காலத்தில் எக்கர் ஒன்று சுமார் நானூறு ரூபாய்கள் வீதத்திற்கு வாங்கியிருக்கிறார். லேபர் டிபார்டுமென்டார் விலையை அதிகப்படுத்தி ஆயிரத்துக்கு மேலாக வாங்கியுள்ளார்கள். இந்த அநியாயத்தை எங்கு சொல்வது ? அதனை விலைமதிக்கச் சென்ற ரெவினியூ இன்ஸ்பெக்டர் முதலிய சில்லரை அதிகாரிகள் நிலத்திற்குச் சொந்தக்காரரிடம் சென்று மூக்குபிடிக்கச் சாப்பிட்டுவிட்டு அவர்கள் சொல்லிய விலையைப் போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இப்படி செய்தவர்கள் யாரென்று கண்டு பிடித்துத் தக்கபரிகாரம் செய்தால் மேலும் அவ்வாறு நடை பெறாமலிருக்கும். ஆதலால் இனி ஆதித்திராவிடர்களின் நிலத்திற்கு விலைமதிப்பிட்டாலும் ஆதித்திராவிடர்களுக்கு வாங்கிக்கொடுக்க விலை மதிப்பிட்டாலும் மேலதிகாரிகளே நேரிலிருந்து கவனிக்கக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

"(e) தற்போது ஆங்காங்கு மிஞ்சியிருக்கும் சர்க்கார் புறம்போக்காகவுள்ள நிலங்களை ஆதித்திராவிடர்கட்கு ஒதுக்கிவைத்திருந்து இலவசமாகவே கொடுக்க வேண்டும். ஏலம் போட்டாலொழிய முடியாதெனக்கருதும் இடங்களையும் ஆதித்திராவிடர்கட்கென ஒதுக்கிவைத்து, சொற்பவிலையிட்டு சிலவருஷங்களில் வசூலித்துக்கொள்ளும்படி கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். உமிகுத்தி அரிசியாகாது. ஏழைகளிடத்தில் இந்த விலை வாங்குவதால் அரசாங்கத்தாருக்குப் பெருத்தலாபம் வந்துவிடாது. ஆதித்திராவிடர்கட்கு எளிதாகத் தர்க்காஸ்தில் கொடுக்கும் நிலங்கள் பெரும்பாலும் ஓடை, அல்லது மேடு, பாறையுள்ள விடங்களாக விருக்கின்றன. அவைகள்தான் எளிதில் பெறுவதற்குரிய நிலங்கள். அவற்றைக் கொடுப்பதால் யாதொரு பயனுமில்லை. உண்டாவது பொருள் நஷ்டமும் சரீரகஷ்டமுமே பயன்படக்கூடிய நன்செய் நிலங்களை கூடியவரை கொடுக்கப் பிரார்த்திக்கிறேன்.

ஏலம்போடக்கூடாது.

"2. நீர்ப்பாசன வசதிகள்.

"(a) நீர்ப்பாசன வசதி விஷயத்தில் ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் மிகவும் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். அது விஷயத்தில் அரசாங்கத்தார் பூரண அனுதாபங் காட்டவேண்டும். பெரிய மிராசுதாரர்கள் தங்கள் நிலங்களுக்கிடையே யாரேனும் ஓர் ஏழை மனிதன் நிலம் வைத்திருந்தால், தண்ணீர் விடாமலும் விளையவொட்டாமலும் தடுத்து இறுதியில் நிலத்திற்கு உரியவரே வலிய விலைகூறும்படி செய்து நானூறு ரூபாய்கள் பொறுமான நிலத்தை நாற்பது ரூபாய்களுக்கு வாங்கிக்கொண்டு மேலும் பெரிய மிராசுதாரராவது வழக்கமாயிருக்கிறது. சிதம்பரம் தாலுக்கா வட கிருஷ்ணபுரம் கிராமத்தின் ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் புத்திசாலிகளாய் ஆளொன்றுக்கு

நீர்ப்பாசன வசதி.

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ஒரு ஏக்கர் இரண்டு ஏக்கர் வீதம் சுமார் எழுபது ஏக்கர் நிலங்களை வைத்துக்கொண்டு பயிரிட்டு கௌரவமாகக் காலங்கழித்து வந்தார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு அடுத்த கிராமத்திலுள்ள சில மிராசுதாரர்கள் செட்டில்மெண்டு ரிஜிஸ்தரில் பதிவாகியும், ஏற்கனவே கிராமப் பிளானில் கண்டிருப்பதும், பட்டாவிலுள்ளதும், வழக்கத்திலுள்ளதுமாகிய பாசன வாய்க்காலைத் தடுத்து சில வருஷங்களாகத் துன்பத்திற்கு ஆளாக்கி வருகின்றனர். இது விஷயமாக எங்கள் சமூகத் தலைவர்கள் ராவ் சாஹிப் R. ஸ்ரீனிவாசம் பிள்ளை, எம்.எல்.சி., அவர்களும், ராவ் பகதூர் எம். ஸி. ராஜா, எம்.எல்.ஏ., அவர்களும் மற்றுந் தலைவர்களும் நேரில் சென்று பார்த்தும் முயர்ச்சித்தும் இன்னும் வட கிருஷ்ணபுரத்திற்கு விமோசனம் உண்டாகவில்லை.

கொண்டங்கி ஏரி மராமத்து.

"(b) கடலூரை யடுத்த கொண்டங்கி ஏரியின் கீழுள்ள நிலங்களை ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் பயிரிட்டுவருகிறார்கள். கொண்டங்கி ஏரியின் கீழுள்ள பாய்ச்சல் வாய்க்கால்களை மராமத்து செய்ய சில வருஷங்களாக அதிகாரிகள் கவனஞ் செலுத்தாமலிருப்பதால், ஆதித்திராவிட உழவர்கள் நஷ்டமடைகிறார்கள். கடவுள் கோபத்தால் மழை பெய்யாமையாலுண்டான பஞ்சம்போக, கடவுளருளால் ஜலம் கிடைத்த ஏரியின் கீழ் மராமத்து செய்யாமையாலுண்டாகும் பஞ்சத்தைத் தடுப்பது அரசாங்கத்தார் செய்யும் பஞ்ச நிவாரண முயற்சியில் முதல் வேலையல்லவா? ஆகவே உயிர்க்கு ஆதரவாயுள்ள நீர்ப்பாசன விஷயத்தில் பெரிதும் கவனஞ் செலுத்தவேண்டுகிறேன்.

"3. கிராமப் பஞ்சாயத்துக் கோர்ட்டுகள்.

கிராமப் பஞ்சாயத்தில் பிரதிநிதித்துவம்.

"கிராமப் பஞ்சாயத்துக் கோர்ட்டுகள் ஏற்படுமுன் எங்கள் வகுப்பாருக்கு அதிக இடுக்கண்களுண்டாகவில்லை. கிராமப் பஞ்சாயத்துக் கோர்ட்டுகளால் எங்கள் சமூகத்தார் மிகவும் கஷ்டமடைகிறார்கள். கிராமப் பஞ்சாயத்து அங்கத்தினர்கள் மிராசுதாரர்களே. அவர்கள் தங்கள் இஷ்டம்போல் நடவாதவர்கள் மீது வழக்குகள் கொண்டு வந்து தாங்களே தீர்ப்புச் செய்து தண்டித்து வருகிறார்கள். எங்களை நசுக்குபவர்களுக்கு மேலும் அதிகாரம் கொடுத்ததாகிறது. கிராமப் பஞ்சாயத்துக் கோர்ட்டுகளில்லாமலிருந்தால் வழக்குகளை மாஜிஸ்ட்ரேட் கோர்ட்டுகளுக்கும் சிவில் கோர்ட்டுகளுக்கும் எடுத்துக்கொண்டுபோக நேரிடும். அதனாலுண்டாம் சிரமங்கண்டு, எளிதில் வழக்கு தொடர முன்வரமாட்டார்கள். தற்போது மிராசுதாரர்களிடத்திலேயே அதிகாரம் வருவதால் எளிதில் தண்டிக்க நேரிடுகிறது. ஆகையால் கிராமப் பஞ்சாயத்துக் கோர்ட்டுகளை அடியோடு ஒழித்துவிடவேண்டும். அல்லது ஒவ்வொரு பஞ்சாயத்துள்ள கிராமங்களிலும் எந்தெந்த வகுப்பினர் எவ்வளவு அளவிற்றாக இருக்கின்றார்களோ அந்தந்த வகுப்புக்களிலும் ஜனத்தொகைக்கேற்றவாறு வகுப்புவாரி பிரதிநிதித்துவங் கொடுத்தால் அந்தந்த வகுப்பினரும் தங்களைப் பாதுகாப்புச் செய்துகொள்வார்கள். அப்படியல்லாமல் இப்பொழுது இருக்கும் நிலைமையிலிருந்தால் ஏழைகளையும் ஆதித்திரா

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விடர்களையும் காட்டிக்கொடுப்பதாகிறது. இவ்வித சம்பவங்கள் சிதம்பரம் தாலூகா காட்டுமன்னார்கோயில, ஸ்ரீமூஷ்ணம் முதலான விடங்களில் நடைபெற்றுவருகின்றன.

"4. போதுமான பிரதிநிதித்தவமில்லாமை.

பெஞ்சு மாஜிஸ்ட்ரேட் கோர்ட்டுகள்.

"(a) பெஞ்சு கோர்ட்டுகளில் போதுமான பிரதிநிதித்துவமின்றி ஒவ்வொரு ஆளேயிருப்பதால் யாதொரு பலனும் ஏற்படவில்லை. வியவகாரத்தில் உங்கள் ஆளும் இருந்து விசாரித்தார் என்று சொல்லக்கூடிய நிலைமையேற்பட்டுவிடுகிறது. ஒரு ஆளாயிருப்பதால் சொல் செல்வாக்கின்றி பாதகமாக கையெழுத்திட நேரிடுகிறது. ஆகையால் பெஞ்சு மாஜிஸ்ட்ரேட் கோர்ட்டுகளிலும் ஆதித்திராவிடர்கட்கு அதிக இடங்கள் கொடுக்கவேண்டும்.

லோக்கல் போர்டுகள்.

"(b) ஜில்லா போர்டு, தாலுகா போர்ட்டு, யூனியன் போர்டு, முனிஸிபாலிடி முதலான ஸ்தலஸ்தாபனங்களிலும் ஜனத் தொகைக்கேற்றவாறு வகுப்புவாரி பிரதிநிதித்துவம்வேண்டும். ஒருவர் இருவர் ஏற்படுவதால் யாதொரு பலனும் ஏற்படவில்லை. ஸ்தலஸ்தாபனங்களுக்கு ஆதித்திராவிடர்களை நாமினேஷன் செய்யும் அதிகாரம், அந்தந்த ஸ்தாபனங்களின் பிரஸிடெண்டுகளுக்கு இருக்கக்கூடாது. ஒரு யூனியன் போர்டு தலைவர் தமது சவுக்கு மாரங்களுக்குத் தண்ணீர் ஊற்றுபவனை நியமித்திருக்கிறார். ஒரு தாலுகா போர்டு பிரஸிடெண்டு தமது பண்ணையாளை நியமித்திருக்கிறார். எங்கேயோ ஒரு பிரஸிடெண்டு தமது குதிரைக்காரனை நியமித்திருக்கிறாரெனக் கேள்வி. இவ்வாறு லோக்கல் போர்டு தலைவர்கள் செய்வதன் காரணம் தமது வேலையாளாகயிருந்தால் அங்கத்தினர் கையெழுத்து வேண்டும்போதெல்லாம் எஜமான் உத்தரவுபடியெனக் கையெழுத்திடுவார்களென்பதேயாம். அதனால் அவர்களிஷ்டப்படி நடத்தற்கேதுவுண்டாகிறது. இவ்விஷயங்களில் ஜில்லா போர்டு தலைவர்கள் தலையிடமுடிவதில்லை. தலையிட்டால் நாளைக்கு தாலுகா போர்டு தலைவர்கள் தமக்கு ஓட்டு கொடுக்கமாட்டார்களென்னும் பயம் ஜில்லா போர்டு தலைவர்களுக்குண்டாயிருப்பதேயாம். ஆகையால் நாமினேஷன் விஷயங்கள் யூனியன் போர்டு தாலூகா போர்டு ஜில்லா போர்டு முனிஸிபாலிட்டிகளின் தலைவர்கள் அபிப்பிராயப்படி செய்யாமல் ஜில்லா கலெக்டர் அவர்கள் ஆங்காங்குள்ள பதிவாயிருக்கும் சபைகளின் அபிப்பிராயங்களைத் கேட்டும் மகாநாடுகள் கூட்டி பொதுஜனங்களின் அபிப்பிராயங்களைத் தெரிந்தும் ஜனத் தொகைக்கேற்றவாறு வகுப்புவாரி பிரதிநிதித்துவம் கொடுத்தல்வேண்டும்.

"5. படிப்பு.

கட்டாயப் படிப்பு வேண்டும்.

"(a) கட்டாயப் படிப்பு கொடுத்தல்வேண்டுமெனச் சட்டம் செய்து வைத்திருந்தால் போதாது. அதனை அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டுவருதல்வேண்டும். கட்டாயப் படிப்புச் சட்டத்தை அமுலுக்குக்கொண்டுவரின் ஏழை ஆதித்திராவிடர்கள் தாங்கமாட்டார்கள். சாப்பாட்டிற்கு என்ன செய்வ

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தெனச் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். நான் சில பள்ளிக்கூடங்கள்வைத்து அனுபவம் பெற்றிருக்கிறேன். சிதம்பரம் நந்தனார் பாடசாலை மாணவர்கட்குப் பகலில் ஒருவேளை கேழ்வரகுக் கூழ் ஊற்றிவந்தேன். அப்போது நூறு பிள்ளைகளிருந்த விடத்தில் முந்நூறு பிள்ளைகள் வந்தார்கள். கூழை நிறுத்தினேன். முந்நூறு பிள்ளைகள் நூறு பிள்ளைகளாகக் குறைந்துவிட்டார்கள். பகலில் உயர்ந்த உணவு, உயர்ந்த சிற்றுண்டிகள் வேண்டியதில்லை. சுலபமாக அரையணா பொறுமான கூழ் ஊற்றினால் கட்டாயப் படிப்பை அமுலுக்குக்கொண்டுவரலாம். இந்தியா கவர்ன்மெண்டார் வஜா செய்யும் மாகாண கப்பமாகிய நூற்றறுபத்தைந்து லட்சத்தில் கட்டாயப் படிப்பு விஷயத்தில் சிறிது செலவழிக்கும்படி பிரார்த்திக்கிறேன்.

ஹையர் எலிமெண்டரி பாடசாலைகள்.

“(b) எலிமெண்டரி படிப்பு போதாது. ஹையர் எலிமெண்டரி படிப்புவரை வைத்தல்வேண்டும். தற்போது போதனாமுறை கல்லூரிக்கு வருபவர்கள் ஹையர் எலிமெண்டரி அதாவது எட்டாவதுவரை வாசித்தவர்களாயிருத்தல்வேண்டுமென ஒரு விதியிருக்கிறது. அது நல்ல நோக்கமேயானாலும் தென்னார்காடு ஜில்லாவில் எங்கள் நந்தனார் பாடசாலையைத் தவிர, எட்டாவது வகுப்புவரை நடைபெற்றுவரும் ஆதித்திராவிட பாடசாலை வேறு ஒன்றுமில்லை. இந்த நிலைமையில் ஹையர் கிரேட் எலிமெண்டரி உபாத்திமார்கள் எங்கிருந்து கிடைப்பார்கள். ஒவ்வொரு கிராமத்திலும் எட்டாவது வகுப்புவரையிலுள்ள பாடசாலைகளை ஏற்படுத்தல் மிகவும் அவசியமாகும்.

சக்கண்டரி பாடசாலைகள்.

“(c) ஒவ்வொரு தாலூக்காகளிலும் ஒவ்வொரு சக்கண்டரி பாடசாலையை ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டும். அதில் படிப்பவர்கட்கு இலவசமாகவே உணவு முதலியன கொடுத்தல்வேண்டும். இது மிகவும் அவசியம்.

உயர்தர கல்லூரிள்.

“(d) ஒவ்வொரு ஜில்லாவிலும் அவசியமாக ஆதித்திராவிடர்கட்காக ஐஸ்கூல்களேற்படல்வேண்டும். தென்னார்காடு ஜில்லாவில் ஆறு லட்சம் ஆதித்திராவிடர்களிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆறு லட்சம் ஜனங்களிலும் ஸ்கூல்பைனல் படித்தவர் ஒருவருமிலர். இதைவிட எங்கள் துர்ப்பாக்கியத்தைச் சொல்லிக் காட்டவேண்டாம். இவ்விஷயமாக அரசாங்கத்தாரைக் கேட்டால் எல்லாக் கல்லூரிகளிலும் ஆதித்திராவிட மாணவர்கள் சேர்ந்து படிக்கலாம். சட்டம் இயற்றப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. உங்களுக்கெனத் தனிக் கல்லூரிகள் வேண்டாமெனக் கூற முயல்கின்றார்கள். அதற்காக நாங்கள் நன்றிபாராட்டுகிறோம். அந்தச் சட்டத்தைச் செய்கையில் காண்பது அரிதாகவிருக்கிறது. நாங்களே வைதீகம் பராட்டுமிடங்களிலுள்ள கலாசாலைகளுக்குச் சென்று எங்கள் பிள்ளைகளைச் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமெனக்கேட்டால் சட்டத்திற்குப் பயந்து சேர்த்துக்கொள்வார்கள். அல்லது சாக்குபோக்கு சொல்வார்கள். அது விஷயத்தில் அழுத்தமான நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் பகைமையும் மாணவன் முன்னுக்குவர முடியாத கஷ்டங்களும் ஏற்படுகின்றன. பலவித சிக்கல்களிருக்கின்றன. உயர்ந்த வகுப்பினராகிய வலிவுள்ளவர்களிடத்தில் நாங்கள் சென்று சண்டையிட்டுக்கொண்டு உள்ளதையுங் கெடுத்துக்கொள்வதை

விட தனியே விரும்புவது நலமாகும். ஆதித்திராவிட மாணவர்களைச் சேர்ப்பதால் கஷ்டமுண்டாகுமென்று தோன்றும் இடங்களிலெல்லாம் ஆதித்திராவிடர்கட்குத் தனிப்பாடசாலைகளை அமைத்துக் கொடுத்தால் அது எங்கள் சமூகத்திற்குப் பெரிதும் பயன்படும். எங்கள் சமூகத்திற்கென ஏற்படும் கல்லூரிகளில் கூடுமானால் மற்றைய வகுப்புப் பிள்ளைகளும் சேர்ந்து படிக்கச் சொற்ப உதவி புரிந்தால் உயர் வகுப்பு மாணவர்களும் வந்து சேர்வார்கள். அதன் மூலம் சுலபமாக சமரசம் ஏற்படக்கூடும். தற்போது மகமதிய மாணவர்கட்கு தனிக் கல்லூரிகள் ஏற்படுத்தி நடத்தி வருவதைப் போல் எங்களுக்கும் நடத்திவரக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்." தலைவர் மணியடிக்க நிருத்திக்கொண்டார்."

12-45 p.m. Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—" Mr. President, Sir, the hon. the Finance Member has presented his budget for the year 1927–28 and he expects the Members of this House to express their opinion candidly on that subject. I am afraid I cannot help saying the fact that this budget has once again proved, that diarchy has failed in this province. From one stage to the other all that was apprehended from diarchy has come true. Because, the departments which are regarded as nation-building departments, have been neglected; and I am not sure, when the remission from the Government of India is coming, whether that amount will be utilized in feeding those departments. I have to state when speaking about this budget, how the constitution of this Council itself proves that we in this Council are not able to give effect to our own views as representatives of the people. Out of a Council of 132 there is a very large element of councillors who have always to look to the electorate, and that electorate is no other than the bureaucracy. With an element like that, and another element which has always proved to be reactionary in the matter of popular interests, we some of us who have been returned to this Council to represent the people's interests, find it impossible to really and honestly represent them in this Council. Because, when we find that we could not do justice to the people, our party would not undertake the responsibility of undertaking office. I believe and I hope I am correct that our friends of the Justice party also have now come to realize that diarchy has proved a failure."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Have they ? No answer."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—" They may be imperturbable. I hope they will never on any future occasion go anywhere near those benches."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I see, even if they get a chance ? "

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—" We have seen that diarchy has proved a failure. Now, Mr. President, with a constitution like that to which the Executive Council of the Government of Madras is not responsible, how under circumstances like these, can the representatives of the people say they have come here in the hope of doing justice to the people of this Province ? Not under this system can we ever hope to do justice. Until and unless we effect the necessary reform, and when provincial autonomy is given to this province, we can never hope to put into effect so many things we have to do, in order to raise the people of our province to a position where they will not have the sufferings under which they are now labouring. Mr. President, we know we recently had a big discussion on the subject of the famine that is prevalent almost everywhere in this province. What are these famines for ? The

Government of Madras, I say the executive department of the Government of Madras, has to take upon its shoulders the entire responsibility of famine that is prevalent throughout the length and breadth of this province. Because, if they had in the former years taken the necessary precautions, certainly these famines could have been avoided. Mr. President, famines are not the only hardships the people of this Province are suffering from. In addition to famines, they are overburdened with indirect taxation. In any country where we obtain a popular Government, the only alternative under a famine condition the Government would suggest, is to reduce taxation to give relief to the famine-stricken people and to the district, whereas in our province we find that the case is otherwise. We find that taxes have been increasing, and side by side with taxation expenditure has also been increasing. I am ashamed to state here that ever since the reforms have come into existence, the expenditure of this province has increased by nearly 6 crores. Is this not a state of affairs over which the representatives of the people bring this Government to realize that they are not doing justice to the people of this province. Mr. President, how has this increase come into existence ? Is it for the sake of efficiency or has this enormous increase of 6 crores brought about a proportionate amount of material advantage to this Presidency ? No, I say emphatically no. Because to-day there are millions in our province who go with half a meal a day and some of them go without a meal. What has this increase in the expenditure of the province done to relieve the distress of the people of this province ? Mr. President, the Government of this province has failed in discharging their duty in the fundamentals. The first thing that I would refer to is education. What has the Government done to spread elementary education from one end of the province to the other ? Well, it is no doubt true that very many buildings have come into existence. Large buildings are constructed in every town and every village if I may say so. But their idea of education stops with buildings and buildings alone. If we go and examine the quality of the education that is imparted it is not only not utilitarian but it is not the right sort of education.

" Because it does not tend to the little children acquiring the knowledge that is necessary for them, and it does not enable them to prosecute higher studies if they have to go and join the higher classes. Both qualitatively and quantitatively the education of this province has been a failure. I hope the Education Minister, who is a popular Minister, of course under the circumstances in which he is placed to-day, will try his utmost to see that a real and genuine popular education is given to the people of this province. If he fails to do it, I am sure he will not sit in that seat a moment longer. 1 p.m.

" Mr. President, I should draw the attention of the Education Minister to two or three standing scandals in this Presidency. One of them is the Law College. It is high time that the whole system of legal education is reorganized. I know that the ex-Minister thought it was a great achievement on his part to have reduced the strength of full-time assistant professors and secured professors and assistant professors who can give a certain number of hours of their time to the Law College. I am afraid that that system has failed and failed miserably. I hope very soon the hon. the Minister for Education will see that that college is reorganized.

" Mr. President, the ex-Minister has earned the reputation of having pursued a policy of step-motherly attitude towards the Muslim community. I shall cite one or two instances alone here to prove the fact. One of them

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is the way in which the concession that the poor Muslim students were enjoying for a number of years was taken away from them with the result that many a student had to give up his studies, and besides that, they had to resort, in order to get that concession, to methods which are not at all self-respectful. Has the ex-Minister thus done justice to the Muslim community?

"Again, Mr. President, the ex-Minister more than once attempted to abolish that only college, the Muhammadan College, in the City. (Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro: 'No.') Well, Sir, I know, as a matter of fact, such attempts were made. But for the strong representation from the Muslim community that was made, he would have seen that that college was abolished. (Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro: Wrong.) Well, Sir, that was so. I assert it and assert it as emphatically as I can that that was the case." (Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: "Hear, hear.")

*Mr. J. A. DAVIS:—"Mr. President, Sir, whether this budget is a minus budget, as the hon. the Finance Member has said, or whether it is a plus budget, as certain hon. Members would have us believe, it is a satisfactory budget for the reason that it indicates to us that a provincial contribution is to be removed. It is also a very satisfactory budget in that it provides for the Mettur and Pykara schemes. Sir, there has been a cry that famine is devastating this country. If anything can be accomplished in the direction of removing famine, it is by the Mettur project. Yesterday, we heard much said about Indianization. Are we not to appreciate the benefits that flow from Indianization. It is to the credit of the present hon. the Law Member that he has taken up such a bold position that the Mettur project and the Pykara scheme are being carried through. So far as the Pykara scheme is concerned, I notice that recently a special officer has been put on duty to ascertain whether the supply of current from the scheme will be fully utilized. I am confident that there was no necessity for such a special officer being appointed. That the supply will create demand there is no doubt, and it will be rather that the Pykara scheme will not be able to supply sufficient current, than that there will not be demand for the current from that scheme. I will give one instance that the supply will create the demand. Take the municipality of Ootacamund. A few years ago that Council entered into a contract with the Cordite Factory to supply 1½ lakhs units of current to the municipality at the rate of As. 1-6. That municipality has come to exceed that maximum and is even prepared to take a million units at twice the price and when a municipality like that of Ootacamund can take a million units, or one per cent of the production at Pykara, what need is there for any further investigation as supply and demand? That scheme should go on and go on at once. It is certainly to the credit of the hon. the Law Member that he has pressed forward these schemes, and I hope that this House will see, Irrigation Bill or no Irrigation Bill, that the Mettur and Pykara schemes are not shelved or even delayed, for, in years to come they will greatly swell the revenue of this province, and immortalize the term of office of the present Law Member.

"Then, Sir, I have a few words to say as regards Anglo-Indian education. Yesterday, it was very ably set out that the Muslim community would be deprived of education if the medium of education was the vernacular. This system of education is greatly affecting our community, and at Ootacamund we find a large number of Anglo-Indians deprived of their education in

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consequence of this provision. Yesterday, on behalf of the Indian Christians also we heard that a certain order of the Government deprived them of the advantage of education, and that for being a Christian they should either lose their education or they should pay higher fees.

"There is one question which I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Members of this Council, and that is the question of the Todas. The Government has recently appointed a specialist to enquire into the causes of the extinction of the Todas on the Nilgiris. May I appeal to the hon. the Minister in charge that this may not stop at the point of investigation and that something real will be done to prevent the extinction of this ancient race?

"Next, Sir, I have to complain of a recent order of Government in the Medical department. In pursuance of a resolution of this Council in 1916, Government undertook to provide half the expenditure on hospitals and dispensaries maintained and opened by local bodies. During the last two months, Government has stopped further grants to these hospitals and dispensaries and the Minister has said that this order is going to be revised. Now, Sir, may I ask when this order is to be revised and what is going to happen to the local board and municipal dispensaries during the period the revision of the order is taking place? Sir, may I also bring to the notice of the House the attitude the Government is adopting towards the Lawley Hospital of Coonoor? This hospital has never been put on a stable financial footing. The Lawley Hospital is run on a scale far in excess of the municipal requirements of Coonoor and the municipal authorities are asked to provide the necessary funds with the result that the Council in the ninth month of a year turns the patients out of the hospital and closes its doors. This happened only a month ago. I am glad to say that it has been temporarily reopened, and I appeal to the hon. the Minister to see that the occasional closing of this hospital is put a stop to, and an annual grant is made to the institution.

"Then, Sir, I will come to the question of prohibition. The other day I noticed in the press that the Minister for Excise had said that not even 5 per cent of the population of this Presidency wanted prohibition. May I remind him that out of a population of 40,000 Badagas of the Nilgiris almost the whole of them presented a petition that no liquors should be made available to them in the taverns, and that in response to it the previous Ministry gave us a sort of partial prohibition on the Nilgiris. Those who have known the position of these people five years ago and their position to-day will see what great benefit has accrued to the hill tribes of the Nilgiris. ('Hear, hear.') All that we are asking for is the closure of the arrack shops. There is a very copious supply of beer on the Nilgiris, the breweries there supply the whole Presidency, and we are watching with very great anxitey whether the Excise Minister is going to close the arrack shops in the Nilgiri district. He cannot say that it is too late, as the auctions have taken place. We brought this matter to his notice in very good time and we have taken a promise from him that, if necessary, the contracts will be cancelled and that they will be cancelled even if the auctions had taken place. I will ask for the help of this House in pressing that at least in the one district of the Nilgiris the arrack shops will be closed, and I earnestly note this House will support me in this matter." (Hear, hear.)

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*Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"Mr. President, Sir, one feature of the budget which appears to me noteworthy is the enormous scale on which liabilities are sought to be undertaken in it not only for this year but for the years yet to come. Even to a point of recklessness, as the hon. the Finance Member himself says, are commitments being made for a series of years by this budget. He has warned us, with a characteristic frankness and fairness, against being misled by the modest budget provisions of this year and has told us that behind these modest provisions lie concealed huge commitments for future years. If these commitments were for services which are really claimant, then we would certainly welcome this recklessness on his part. We would even wish that he were more reckless than now. But going through the long catalogue of the proposed new works, we find many that are not of this description.

"From the proceedings of this Council during previous years I find, Sir, that year after year hon. Members of this Council have complained—and quite justifiably too—that the Government have been lavishing all their generosity on institutions in and around the City of Madras, (hear, hear), while the rural services were being starved almost to death. In spite of these lamentations of the hon. Members, we find again that, even in this year of such reckless generosity and liberality, the same sad story is being repeated. It is the General Hospital, which is a few yards away from the Fort Saint George, that again catches the eye of the Government; but the sad moan of the villager does not reach them yet. It does reach us, Sir, and pierces through our hearts. We are here as representatives of the people and it will not do for us to sit here voting their money for purposes which do not benefit them. A sum of 39 lakhs is proposed to be spent on the remodelling of an existing institution in Madras while there are yet hundreds of villages without roads, without water-supply and without dispensaries. A note was circulated among us at the last meeting of this Council when the Government threatened us with a motion for a supplementary grant for this remodelling scheme. In that note, beyond the mere assertion that the scheme is an urgent and important one and that the Government are anxious to rush it through we do not find a word of explanation as to how it was urgent and important; we do not find a word of argument to support the statement. All that they tell us is 'we are anxious to undertake this work and we have chosen this year of grace—1927—for that purpose; give us the money that we want.' That is all we find in the note that was circulated to us.

"While we turn to the rural services we find that they are again receiving the same niggardly treatment as before. For rural communications the sum allotted is 5 lakhs. For rural water-supply, as the hon. Member for Chittoor has pointed out, it is an absurdly small sum of 2·5 lakhs that has been provided. As for rural dispensaries little or nothing has been provided for. Turning to page 110 of the Budget Memorandum I see that only four rural dispensaries are going to be opened in the year 1927–28; probably there may be concealed behind some other budget provision more rural dispensaries, because I understood the hon. Minister in charge of the subject to say yesterday that more dispensaries were going to be opened in 1927–28. I am sure that if only four dispensaries were intended to be opened he would not have made that statement.

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"It was in the year 1925 that the then Chief Minister, the Raja of Panagal, inaugurated the scheme of grants to local bodies for works of rural development. A sum of 6·25 lakhs was given for rural communications and a similar sum for rural water-supply. The grants were given rather late in the year 1925—I believe it was in September—and there was also a condition super-imposed that local bodies receiving the grants ought to find from some source or other a sum equivalent to the grant they received from the Government. Though working under these adverse conditions, I am glad to say that the local bodies did splendidly well in utilizing these amounts. To borrow again from the hon. the Finance Member a very good expression which he used in the course of his speech, the digestive apparatus of local bodies was found quite suitable for digesting this particular kind of food that they got from the Government. In fact the complaint of the Government seems to be that they swallowed and digested more than they were expected to do, for we find it stated in more than one place in the Budget Memorandum that the disbursements out of the grants in 1925-26 exceeded all their anticipations.

"In 1926-27 the grant made was much less than in the previous year and this year while we were all expecting a very liberal grant the provision made is grossly inadequate. The need for the improvement of rural communications is indeed very great throughout the province. Even in my district of Tinnevelly, which cannot be said to be a backward one, there are areas in which the only convenient means of transport is the primitive pack-bull. There are yet other areas in which even walking from one village to another in the rainy season is a matter of great difficulty. Any system of administration in which such a state of things is allowed to continue must be ashamed of itself. I can assure the hon. Minister that if he makes the grants in time this year and without any exacting conditions super-imposed as before, local bodies can be trusted to spend not 5 lakhs but ten times that amount during the year. Construction of rural roads is not a matter of great difficulty. We do not want the sanction of the Superintending Engineer for the purpose—a sanction which takes months and years to get as we all know. We have only the overseer and the maistris on whose services we have to depend and they are amenable to our discipline but not the Superintending Engineer. Let the hon. Minister give the 50 lakhs and see whether our digestive apparatus is not strong enough to digest the whole of it. If we fail, of course it is open to him to take back all the money.

"Whatever amount the Government might give I would request them to give it without adding the condition that the local bodies must find an equivalent amount. I am sorry to have to say that most of our local bodies have already exhausted the three resources usually employed for finding money, viz., begging, borrowing and stealing. To demand of them an equivalent sum now would be to deny them the grant.

"Coming to water-supply the provision made is 2·5 lakhs. Dividing this sum among the 128 taluk boards of this Presidency and again sub-dividing it among the revenue taluks of each taluk board the net result will probably be enough not even to dig one well but only a fraction of it. It does not require any argument from me to convince anybody that to have a fraction of a well is no good to any one. The proverb is well known that the man who jumps over a fraction of a well is gone.

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"With regard to rural dispensaries the amount given is almost nothing: the present system inaugurated by the late Chief Minister can easily be mended and made an excellent one. If instead of the Rs. 33-5-4 now given to the Sub-Assistant Surgeon the Government pay them Rs. 50 the scheme will become quite attractive. In these days of unemployment it will not be a matter of difficulty to find Sub-Assistant Surgeons for Rs. 50 for these dispensaries.

"As the time before me is short I propose to deal with one or two points of local importance to us without making any further observations of a general character. Our district is in the extreme corner of the Presidency and it does not catch the eye of the Government; just in the same way as the hon. Members at the extreme ends of this House might have found it difficult to catch the eye of the President. The river Tambraparni flowing through our district is a perennial one and its potentialities have not been tapped yet. The scheme relating to the Papanasam Storage Reservoir has been long in the air—perhaps for as many years as the Mettur Project itself. Now that the Mettur Project has been sanctioned and will become an accomplished fact soon, may I ask the hon. Member in charge to undertake the investigation of our scheme? If the people under the Mettur Project say that his name is going to be immortalized by that project may I too prophesy, with equal claims to do so, that if he inaugurates the Papanasam scheme his name will go down to posterity washed of all its sins?

"The Tuticorin harbour muddle has, however, not added another feather to the hon. Member's cap. Of this scheme even the *Madras Mail*—a paper not usually known to indulge in any irresponsible or ill-informed criticisms of Government and its measures though it may have an occasional fling at our President—says: 'What they (the merchants of Tuticorin) are offered at present is a big hole in the sea near the shore with an approach to that hole from the open sea.'. This is the scheme which the Government experts have adumbrated and which is sought to be thrust on the merchants of Tuticorin. I am glad to see, however, that in this case the voice of Tuticorin has reached the ears of the Government and that the hon. Member in charge proposes to go and see things for himself. It is needless for me therefore to go into any details about the scheme at this stage. I need only appeal to the hon. Member that if as a result of his visit to Tuticorin he too discovers only a profitless big hole there, any undue regard for the prestige of the Government or considerations of that kind ought not to be allowed to stand in his way of dropping the scheme with all possible grace.

"Speaking of the Tuticorin harbour I am reminded of an undertaking given by the hon. Mr. Graham in 1925. While opposing the private Bill brought for amending the Port Trust Act so as to give representation to the Indian Chamber of Commerce he gave an undertaking that if the Chamber showed any signs of vitality he would bring an amending Bill himself in October or November of that year. I may tell this House, Sir, that the Indian Chamber of Commerce at Tuticorin is showing as vigorous signs of vitality as this hon. House itself. Is it too much then, Sir, to expect the hon. Member, who is now in charge and who has inherited the obligation to redeem the undertaking of his predecessor, to bring forward a Bill of his own and thus inspire, in the minds of the public and the hon. Members of this House, greater confidence in undertakings given on the floor of this House

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by the hon. Members of Government? Notices of private Bills for this purpose have already been given but I hope that the hon. Member of Government will not drive the Members of this House to the necesssity of piloting a private Bill through for this purpose.

" One more point. We have a grievance about our Women and Children's Hospital. The hon. Minister in charge of Public Health was good enough to inspect the hospital and told us that it was more or less settled that the Government should take up its management. Our Headquarters Hospital consists really of two portions, one for women and children and the other for men. The portion for men having been taken up it is only just and proper that the other portion also should be taken up by Government."

The House rose for lunch.

After Lunch (2-15 p.m.).

* Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao :—" Mr. President, there is nothing for me in the Budget to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member for framing and presenting it. It is framed in the usual bureaucratic style. It does not disclose any bold policy or imagination. It does not disclose either national economy or sense of responsibility to the people of this province from whose taxes alone this Government is maintained and whose prosperity, progress and welfare ought to be the sole criterion in framing a budget. I cannot congratulate the Ministers either. I know they are the junior prtners in a partnership where the Reserved Side is the dominant partner. They cannot, as representatives of the people, dictate to the other side. Their position is not a self-respecting one. By going through the budget, my conviction that the reforms are illusory and that diarchy is unworkable has been deepened.

" Before going through particular items of the budget, I will refer to the reduction or the remission of provincial contribution. The hon. the Finance Member has not only grown jubilant over the proposed remission of the provincial contribution but also expects our representatives in the Legislative Assembly to accept the budget of Sir Basil Blackett and get remission. Of course, the contribution to the Government of India from this poor province is a very heavy burden and we feel the sense of injustice done to us by Meston's Award. But national questions of far greater importance ought not to be ignored simply for the sake of getting a remission in provincial contributions. For instance, the national demand is of far greater importance than this provincial question. If our representatives in the Assembly chose to reject the budget of Sir Basil or cut down many portions of it because the Government of India have not satisfied the united demand made by the nation through the Legislative Assembly, I must say that they are justified in doing so.

" Secondly, there is the question of ratio—the 18*d*. per rupee ratio. This ratio is highly prejudicial to the interests of Indian manufactures and Indian agriculture. I cannot expect our representatives in the Assembly to accept the 18*d*. ratio for the sake of getting the provincial contribution remitted. (Mr. J. A. Saldanha: 'Hear, hear'.) The Congress Committee after very careful consideration has declared itself against the 18*d*. ratio. Subject to all these safeguards, if we get remission of our contribution, we must certainly

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welcome it. Probably, by certification or by some other means, we may get the remission after all and then we will have a surplus of 2 crores and odd in our budget in the coming year. From a cursory study of the budget, it is clear that the notorious fact that the Anglo-Indian administration of our country has established a very costly machinery is well-founded. After the advent of the British Government, India has become famous for two things—for becoming poor and for getting the most costly administration in the whole world. Our country presents the spectacle of the poorest country, having the most costly administration. The Reforms have not changed the nature of the costly administration. By reading the figures given in the budget abstract by the hon. the Finance Member, we find that, since the introduction of the Reforms, there has been an increase of one crore and twenty-nine lakhs of rupees in the revenue collected from the people. Revenue is collected by taxing the poor people of our country. Now, how has it been spent? There has been an increase in the expenditure on the administration side to the extent of 136 lakhs, representing pay of officers, allowances, pensions and charges connected with the administration. This shows that, if we are able to collect more money, we spend more money on the administration charges. It is not domestic economy. That is not what a householder would do. That is not what any person who lives in his house, who is in charge of the house and who is responsible for the welfare of the inmates thereof would do. Administration charges should be treated as an item of least importance and the major portion of the income ought to be spent on nation-building departments like education, sanitation, public health, rural reconstruction, etc. When the expenses on the administration side increase to 136 lakhs, those on the transferred departments side increased only by about 75 lakhs. That reveals the nature of the Anglo-Indian administration that we have.

"There is another feature in the administration. The administration is topheavy. It can only be compared to a man, with big head and big shoulders having lean legs. The white bureaucrats and the brown bureaucrats take the largest salaries in the world and yet the Lee Commission came to consider their alleged grievances and granted them more allowances; while the poor village talaiyaris, vettis, village reddies and karnams, and elementary school masters suffer. Nobody cares for these ill-paid people. On the other hand, in the pay of the karnams and village munsifs there has been a reduction of Re. 1 or Rs. 2 while in the pay of the talaiyaris and vettis, the poorest of the Government servants, there has been a cut of annas eight. It seems there is a recent Government Order proposing to cut down still further the pay of the village officers in proprietary estates. In that way things are going on. I expected that the Ministers at least would take less salary and set an example to the future Ministers, I mean the Ministers at the time of the advent of Swaraj. I expected that they would take something like Rs. 2,000 or 2,500 a month only. But I find that provision has been made for their full pay (Rs. 5,333-5-4).

"Now, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the repressive policy still pursued by them. My reference to it is relevant on this occasion because there is the dictum redress of grievances before supply. My hon. Friend Mr. Madhavan Nayar has spoken about the non-release of Mr. Narayana Menon in spite of the unanimous resolution of this Council. My friend, the Mussalman brother, spoke about the refusal of the Government

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to abandon the scheme of colonizing the Andamans with Mappilla women and children in spite of the resolution to that effect passed by this House. The Government is impervious to public opinion; not only to public opinion outside but also to the resolutions passed by this very House. To-day we find from the answers given by the hon. the Home Member that Mappilla prisoners instead of being brought from the Andamans to our shores in accordance with the resolution passed by this House, are still being sent there with their women and children. Their voluntarily going there is a bunkum. Why not bring all these prisoners to Indian jails and be treated as political prisoners. Mappillas are, after all, political prisoners, Punjabis still in prisons are political prisoners, Narayana Menon is a political prisoner. The question of the grant of special treatment to political prisoners was brought before the House some years back and it has not yet been solved by the Government.

"Sir, even in jails there is still racial distinction. A European thief is allowed to sit in a chair while an Indian thief is asked to pull the punkah for him. There is still racial discrimination and it is a national humiliation.

"I wish to bring to the notice of the House a case of repression of a milder nature but of a far more important character. And if the facts of the case I am going to relate are true then, the whole land revenue should be voted against. Referring to this matter I have given notice of a starred question and also a resolution. The question has not yet appeared in the agenda. By a district gazette notification published in February 1924, 209 acres and odd of lands belonging to non-co-operators (all congressmen) were removed from the ayacut of the Kistna eastern delta. Those lands were under authorized wet cultivation and single water rates were being collected. Naturally the owners had spent a lot of money for converting them from dry to wet and those lands were included in the ayacut in the years 1920 and 1921. In 1924, suddenly without assigning any reason, simply because the owners of those lands were wearing khaddar and belonged to the Congress party, the Collector of the district, excluded them from the ayacut and charged penal assessment, I am told that on some of those lands even 20 times penal assessment has been levied this year, i.e., at Rs. 100 per acre. I know some of them. There is one man by name Nookula Veeraraghaviah, a Kapu by caste, who was levied penal assessment. Of course, there is no distinction made between Brahmans and non-Brahmans in the matter of repression. This Kapu gentleman had 58 acres and odd and all those lands have been thrown out of the ayacut. The great crime that this man committed is that he resigned his village munsifship and became a congressman. Throwing out of ayacut such a large area as 58 acres means confiscation of lands worth from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 2,500 per acre in the Kistna delta. I am not exaggerating."

2-30 p.m.

* Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai:—"Mr. President, Sir, I rise to congratulate the hon. Finance Member for the lucid exposition with which the budget for the next official year is presented to this House. The memorandum appears to be a ready reckoner and makes easy to understand the various heads referred to in the main volume. I feel special praise is due to the hon. Member for getting a substantial remission from the Provincial contribution which has brightened the financial stand-point of the Presidency. I would therefore suggest, a large portion of the population, the depressed classes, are labouring under very many disabilities, that the hon. Members of the Government should reserve a substantial portion of the remission to remove the various disabilities

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and penalties under which they labour and to improve the condition of the depressed classes. I need not go into the depressed condition of this community caused by the famine now prevailing as it has already been dealt with by several hon. Members. The village officers especially the talaiyaris and vettis are receiving very meagre pay which is hardly enough to keep body and soul together; I think the time is come to take up the question of the improvement of the rural areas which are inhabitated by depressed classes.

"Sir, another grievance that exists is the very meagre representation of the depressed classes in the Government service. Time and again our representatives have been pressing in this House for a better state of affairs but there has been no proper response. The latest administration report reveals the smallest number of the depressed class members who serve in the Government departments and this number does not stand comparison with their population and the general reason advanced is want of educational qualifications and one wonders how this could be surmounted when the community is so backward economically. To remedy this state of affairs it is high time that the existing scholarships and stipends are doubled in number to give scope to a large number of students to qualify themselves educationally and to compete for services. Until then I am of opinion that special exemptions must be granted to the members of this community. It is necessary that a hostel similar to the one existing in Madras has to be opened in Chidambaram or in its vicinity to afford facilities for students from the southern districts. A similar hostel for girls at Madras will go a long way to improve the condition of the community.

"Another important factor that stands in our way is the drink evil. The evil of having taverns and toddy shops near the depressed classes hamlets has wrought untold miseries in their life. I am sure the hon. Minister in charge of Excise portfolio will turn a new leaf and afford protection to these unfortunate people so that their economic condition may be improved. Total prohibition is, I think, the key note for the advancement of the community that have stood starvation and suffering for centuries.

"Strange things are happening with regard to the grant of lands to the depressed classes. I understand that orders have been passed cancelling free grant of wet lands to them. It will be very hard to ask the people to give the value of the lands given to them some years ago or to quit the lands. I have heard of cases where families mortgaged their jewels and improved the lands. If they are asked to leave their lands, I need not depict the sad picture.

"Another factor is that the agricultural labour—generally members of the depressed classes—which are employed by the landlords are given low rate of wages. This is a state of affairs which exists in no other country. The time has come when the Labour department must look to these things and arrange for fixity of minimum wages for these poor people so that their economic condition may be improved. In the budget there is provision for the appointment of a Personal Assistant to the Labour Commissioner. As this House knows, the Labour department is the department which deals with all matters concerning the depressed classes, and this post must be set apart to a depressed class member. As a Member representing the depressed classes I may point out that this will go a long way to help the depressed classes.

"Now coming to the question of village communication and sanitation I think that a greater percentage of allotment must be reserved for their

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improvement. I know of many villages where there are no good communications. Sanitation in villages is worse. It should be improved by utilising a larger amount for hospitals and dispensaries. If the dispensaries happen to be near the dwelling places of the depressed classes, their condition would improve.

" Another point. Government grant money for the establishment of libraries provided local bodies are willing to bear half the cost. In the case of depressed classes the entire cost must be met by the Government as the opening of libraries will have much educative value.

" Our representation in the local boards are still inadequate, and here and there influential people to serve their own interests are trying to snatch away our seats, and I am sure the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government will be alert on this important matter.

" We must have special panchayats as, at present, in many places caste predominates over justice.

" In conclusion I appeal to the Government Members both of the Reserved half and Transferred half to make a thorough investigation into the various disabilities under which the depressed classes are labouring and to set apart a substantial amount for their betterment."

* Mr. C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar :—" Mr. President, Sir, conscious as I am of the powerlessness of this House to change the scheme of the budget, I shall make an endeavour to indicate the directions in which the budgetted revenue may be reallotted in useful directions and to offer certain criticisms. The City of Madras presents problems of its own both as the headquarters of the Presidency and by itself. The biggest institution here which affects not only the destinies of the citizens of Madras but also of the whole of the Madras Presidency in the most vital manner is the High Court of Judicature. There have been various controversies regarding the work turned out by the High Court, and one important question that is raised is the strength of the High Court in relation to the clearing of its arrears. Opinions have been different as to whether there is enough of arrears in that institution to justify the appointment of what are called temporary Judges. The appointment of temporary Judges is an unmixed evil. It mars the independence that must necessarily be expected of this highest Court in this part of the land. There is no disputing the position that sooner the institution of temporary Judges is done away with, the better for all concerned. In that connexion we will have to consider the question of arrears. It is reported that the arrears are growing constantly never showing any decrease. Like the poor, it threatens to be there always. There is difference of opinion as to the root cause of this state of affairs. Some people think that thorough investigation is necessary. Various committees have been appointed to go into this question. It will be more useful and more to the point if this Council which is asked to vote for the salaries of the additional temporary Judges, looks into the matter itself and sets at rest once for all the necessity or otherwise of the continuance of the temporary judges. The contributories to the accumulation of arrears are due, according to one opinion, to the existence of a Bar which goes thoroughly into each case and wants to present every point of its view and naturally some time is taken up. As it is the litigant public who furnish the gist for the machine to work they have to be given the necessary opportunities of representing their case. They have to be given their rights in as perfect a manner as the circumstances would permit.

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2-45 p.m. "In this direction certain attempts have been made by the hon. the Judges to solve this problem. Taking into account, from their point of view, of the paucity of a sufficient number of Judges, they brought about an innovation, an experiment as they would call it, by introducing the system of posting second appeals and Civil Court appeals, before a single Judge, That has resulted in further accumulation of work ('hear, hear') and the experiment has been unhappy in that it has ended in an addition to the already accumulated arrears. The statistics of the Civil Courts gives these figures: 'The number of Letters Patent appeals (other than Original side appeals) filed was 299 against 181 in 1924, and 42, the average for the preceding quinquennium. The increase is largely explained by the experiment of having City Civil Court appeals and second appeals tried by a single Judge. The number disposed of was 177 against 79 in the previous year and the arrears rose from 128 to 250.' So, I said the experiment has not been happy and not only unhappy in point of reduction of arrears, but also unhappy in giving more trouble to the parties and higher charges to the litigant public. Instead of having to take the cases to a single court, it has now given them the agony of taking them to two courts, with the necessary increase in court fee stamps and increase in other legal charges and also the prolongation of the agony for another year or so. When an unfortunate litigant has to litigate in regard to a piece of land worth about Rs. 100, at the end of the case, the cost will be ten times almost that amount. In due time, I will press for the consideration of the House a resolution, which I have tabled, for the institution of a committee to enquire into these arrears with a view to reduce those arrears. If necessary, the House may also take into consideration the question of transforming the temporary judgeships into permanent judgeships to as large a number as is necessary and be done with the matter once for all. In this connexion, I may also urge the idea that was never put into practice for a very long time now, of deputing one of the High Court Judges to inspect the mufassal courts. Complaints are now and then heard that things are not as they ought to be in the mufassal courts. Of course, Sir, the subordinate judiciary is subjected to periodical inspections by the District authorities, but in their turn, the latter are left undisturbed, and the complaint is that all the mufassal courts including the highest in the district ought to be subjected to inspection and proper regulation. I would urge, in that behalf, that the question of the strength of the High Court Bench must be considered when the whole question is taken up for consideration.

"Another question connected with the High Court is the question of the Registrar. The Registrar of the High Court is a very important person, because it is he who regulates the work in the High Court. The Judges have, as it were, to automatically sit and go through the work put before them and the Registrar is practically the ruler of the High Court. It has been accepted by the Treasury Bench and by the hon. the Law Member that when an opportunity comes, this question of appointing a Registrar from among the most experienced of the legal practitioners would be taken up. It may be pointed out that more than two occasions have occurred; but this pious hope that we were all along having was never fulfilled. The one reason I urge for this course is this: Eminent and able administrators they may claim to be, and I concede they are, for the moment; but the thing that really matters in regard to the High Court is a deeper knowledge of the matters that are put up for disposal before the High Court Judges. A practitioner will know on the mere look

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into the papers what the matters are, and he can arrange things in such a manner that the Judges can deal with them in a succinct form in the best manner possible. Without deprecation, I can safely say that the recruitment at present made is not conducive, from the point of qualification, of previous experience of the recruits to enable the Registrar to put the matter in the best possible manner. I would therefore urge upon the hon. the Law Member to give his attention, almost immediate attention, to the question of the appointment of a Registrar from among the experienced practitioners of the High Court.

"Incidentally, I may say that the printing charges and the court fees that are now being collected are on a more excessive scale than on the desired scale. Special attention may be given to this point that the incidence of the fees is more upon the rural population than upon the City of Madras; and the proportion with regard to the City is far much lower than what it is with regard to the litigants that come to Madras from the mufassal and seek relief in the highest court of the province.

"Another matter is that the accommodation in the High Court buildings is not enough to cope with the increasing work, and the proposed scheme of building a Small Cause Court building need not be unnecessarily delayed. I understand that the military bogey is again coming in between the proposal for the new building . . ."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"It has gone away."

Mr. C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar :—"Thank you. So we can therefore have more fresh air about the High Court buildings.

"Coming now to the administration of the Police department, Sir, I have no congratulations to offer to the Commissioner of Police. The city burglaries that have been disfiguring the state of things in Madras do not redound to his credit. One of the officers of this very Legislative Council has been the victim, and the Police have not yet been able to trace out the culprits; and if there is any solitary instance where the culprits have been traced, more instances occur in the best-regulated parts of the city where night after night systematised burglary is going on and not a single detection has been made. Only a few have been casually detected. If the vigilance of the City Police had been up to the mark, this state of things could not have continued and ought not to continue. Then, Sir, in regard to the motor bus traffic, it has been one of the worst evils, a plague as it were, in the city, and nothing has been done in respect of the various promises made that there would be a law, that there would be more additional police to regulate the bus traffic and such other things. But nothing has been done so far in the way of regulating the speed, and it is almost an imminent danger to the passengers treading our city streets.

"Another important matter which affects the city welfare is the Corporation of Madras. It has been pointed out, Sir, ever so often, that the administration of the Corporation affairs is in the hands of a gentleman who was thrust *willy nilly* into the Corporation building. He owes no allegiance to the President or to the Council who are charged with the administration of the Corporation affairs. We have been seeing the unseemly wrangles that have been going on between the Council and the Commissioner of the Corporation. Recently it has been unearthed that this gentleman, in defiance of precedent and law, has been corresponding with the Assistant Secretary of the Local Self-Government Department, not even the Secretary, and that over

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the head of the President, although the President happens for the time being to belong to that party with whom this Commissioner is said to be in sympathy. An amendment of the City Municipal Act must have come from the Treasury Bench; but as unfortunately it is not forthcoming, I may say that the sooner that legislation is taken up the better will it be for all concerned."

* Mr. T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai:—"Mr. President, Sir, Members on the other side of the House say that it is useless to have this discussion because they point to some grave constitutional defects. We on this side of the House are also aware of the great fundamental defects under which we are suffering now. We are at one with them in our demand for autonomy (hear, hear), in our demand for full self-government, for enjoying a position in our country equal to what others enjoy in theirs. (Hear, hear.) But we, who have come here pledged to work the constitution, may perhaps think it inappropriate to take up that attitude on a question of this kind, and therefore I have my share of congratulations to offer to the hon. the Finance Member in the presentation of the budget. Not that I am satisfied with every aspect of it, but, on the whole, I may be permitted to say that it is satisfactory. Sir, I am one of those who think that it is not fair to rely upon windfalls like the one we are expecting to have, viz., the anticipated remission of the provincial contributions; I may say it is not quite a windfall, but it is a thing which is due to us, and perhaps long overdue. There is one aspect of the question to which I should like to refer. There is again a threatening cloud. I thought all the clouds had passed away, but the hon. Sir Basil Blackett's speech seems to show that he will perhaps have a contribution again to the extent of about 45 lakhs or so next year. Let us take this opportunity to communicate to the Government of India our unanimous demand that there should be a complete remission, an immediate remission and a remission never to be availed of at any future time, so that now we shall have to organize our finances on the footing that we shall no more have these provincial contributions, viz., to the extent of 165 lakhs which was once more than 3 crores. Therefore, the question offers itself; what shall we do with these 165 plus the surplus we are already having. As some Members put it, this sum is over 2 crores. Sir, I think it is our first duty to remit all these taxes which were inaugurated or introduced for the purpose of making up the provincial contribution. Taxation is at a higher level than is absolutely necessary. If I remember aright, I think at the time when the Court fees and the registration fees were enhanced, a distinct undertaking or promise was given to the effect that at the time when the finances of the province assumed a normal position, those taxes would be remitted. This is the first occasion after that promise when we are having a surplus, and therefore no time should be lost in doing our duty by the people and redeeming the promises this Council has given to the people. Even allowing for such remission of taxes, there will still be available a surplus. Therefore, the question is: what shall we do with the available surplus? It has been rightly pointed out that of late, or perhaps all along, the village has not been receiving that adequate consideration which it deserves. It is a very sorry spectacle, Sir, to note that village life has been declining of late. Anybody who has read Indian History would have noted that the village and its life have been the very centre and the source of Indian life. After the introduction of the Western civilization, the village life has been declining, its agriculture, its industries and its several communal aspects have all been decaying. Therefore, it is time that we restored the village to its old vigour and its old life and put it on a safe and sure foundation.

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"It is time that the Panchayats Act is amended and the panchayats are 3 p.m. placed on a better footing so that they may be of real use to the villagers. The panchayats are not, in the first place, autonomous. Under the existing conditions, every village cannot have a panchayat, for the purposes for which the panchayats exist are not such as self-respecting men would look after. Panchayats in the real sense of the term are to be created and invested with more powers, made to feel that they are autonomous, self-asserting bodies in a system which is giving life in the villages. They should also have a share in the finances of the country. It may not be inappropriate for me here to suggest that they should have a share of the land revenue collected from that village. Being in possession of funds, they will be in a position to look after the village needs. There is the question of village communication; there is village medical relief; there is the village tank and the village pasture land. To resuscitate village life, the present system of education should be improved and village medical relief requires our prompt attention. If these were granted, we shall see the village regain its lost purity and vigour. I am anxious, therefore, that a good portion of the available surplus should be devoted to the Transferred departments, I mean the departments of Public Health, Co-operation and Education.

"Next in importance comes the question of irrigation. The villagers feel that the question has not been receiving the attention that is its due. Of course, recently, some big schemes have been inaugurated, but the small peasant proprietor in the far-off village in places situated in the dry parts has not been taken into account. I wish therefore that the subject of well irrigation is given a greater impetus and stimulus and that people who are now suffering for want of water in these parts may be benefited.

"I have next to say a few words on the burden of taxation in regard to land. There is a strong feeling and unanimous feeling among those who have to do with land that the incidence of taxation is far higher than the ordinary ryot can bear. The Government have been maintaining much to our disappointment that the taxation is not enough and they are ever trying to push it up as much as possible. While the people are always against the policy of resettlement, the Government are presistently indulging in enhancing the tax upon land. Now in pursuance of the recommendations of the Joint Committee the Government have thought it necessary to publish a Bill relating to land revenue. I will avail myself of this opportunity to warn the Government that the Bill will be received with great dissatisfaction for want of a provision that any enhancement should be sanctioned affirmatively by the Legislature. Merely laying on the table for two months is not enough. I cannot conceive of a more inequitable measure than this Land Revenue Bill just published. Before the Bill is brought up for discussion in the Council it would be well for the Government to amend these portions and see that if they want to tax the people, they should concede the wholesome principle that they should do so only in accordance with the wishes and the consent of the legislature.

"I now proceed to refer to a few grievances in respect of my own district. The first and foremost is the neglect which has been meted out to us at the hands of the hon. the Law Member. We know how beneficial the Mettur scheme would be if only he would consider us to be entitled to the benefits under that scheme. As it is, as we all know, he has excluded us completely

I for one feel strongly and with me my whole district feels that we have been unjustly excluded. There is neither rhyme nor reason for this, and the Government have been hard put to find out a case for this action of theirs. In a matter of this kind where the happiness of the entire district is concerned, I do not think the hon. the Law Member will be inclined to resort to the theory of settled fact.

"Then, Sir, I certainly have my congratulations to offer to the hon. the Law Member in regard to the Kattalai bed regulator scheme. My only complaint with him there is that he does not go far enough. He has provided but a paltry sum of one lakh in respect of this scheme which will save the Government annually at least Rs. 70,000 by the cultivation of the porambus. The loss which the people and the Government have been sustaining year after year in the matter of remissions cannot be over-estimated and the sooner this work is pushed on the better it is. I request the hon. the Law Member to be more energetic and bring a supplementary demand before the Council for completing the work. There are other works provided for in the budget. For example a provision is made for some surplus works at Killikudu. I should point out to the hon. Member now that these are absolutely unnecessary and would be a mere waste. Engineers in service of Government and retired as well have been unanimous in thinking that these works are absolutely unnecessary especially after the introduction of the Mettur scheme and of the scouring sluices at the Grand Anicut. It is well that money is not wasted on things which are shown to be of no use.

"I should then pass on to refer to the treatment accorded by the Government to 2-C trees. I should say that they are not fair. There has been a resolution passed by this Council that the tax on these trees is far high and should be reduced to the old level. That resolution has been given the go-by. In addition to this, trees which were originally enjoyed as their own property by the pattadars have been taken over by the Public Works Department and attempt is made to lease them. That is one of the grave acts of injustice and I shall have occasion to propose some cuts in respect thereof at the detailed discussion of the budget.

"In regard to the relief which the flood-affected lands were expecting from the Government, the Government have not paid their due attention. The Government have not fulfilled the promises to give trolleys and trucks to remove sand from the affected areas. Far from doing this, their later Government Order has completely gone back on their previous one. Again the way in which they are administering these loans to these poor ryots is very unsatisfactory, not to use a strong expression. If there are ten acres in a plot of land the ryot offers to remove sand from only one acre, he is not given a loan for the purpose. The Government are again unsympathetic in the matter of remissions in the flood-affected areas. If a part of the pattadar's holding is cleared of the silt, he is asked to pay the tax on the whole of his holding."

(The hon. Member resumed his seat as his time-limit was over.)

* Mr. T. K. CHIDAMBARANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, the other day the hon. the Finance Member was giving us that lucid financial statement of his, clothed in the most amiable and engaging form. When he was dwelling on the remission that has been granted to us by the Central

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Government, there was a glow of satisfaction, and I must add, of compassion for the tax-worn millions of this province. I must assure the hon. Member for Finance, Sir, that that glow had a responsive reflection in each and every face in this assembly. Sir, it is really a great boon shown to us, a great mercy, from the Central Exchequer. Verily I may say without pedantry that we realized the profound import of the saying 'Mercy blesseth him that gives and him that takes.' Sir, this song of mercy we are able to sing in connexion with the remission that has now been granted to us. Can we be singing that song of mercy in respect of the various items that we find in the budget here. There is one item here that I want to refer to and that is an item, not merely one crore and sixty-five lakhs granted to us by the Central Government but nearly five crores of rupees to the credit of our revenue and that stands against--Excise. Can we sing that song in respect of these five crores? It does not bless us who are the recipients of the five crores nor does it bless those from whom these five crores are to be exacted. It curseth him that gives and him that takes. That, Sir, is the sorry spectacle in regard to the Excise department. When we want Reform in this department, the authorities say that it is very difficult to remove the drink evil, but what do we find in the world outside us? In America, in Russia—these are countries where the whisky bottle was made a fetich of and Bacchanalian puja was being performed for thousands of years—they have been able to carry on the dry programme to a marvellous extent. In this land which has been all along the land of abstinence, where respectable people never took to drink—for, I may tell you, Sir, that there is no corresponding term in the Tamil language for the 'respectable' term temperance. There is only one word drunkenness. Should it be very difficult, Sir, in this land to carry on this dry programme? But, Sir, what do we find here? We find the department keen on its revenue. It looks as if they take a man by the hand, lead him to the arrack shop and make him drink and thereby fill their pocket with his money.

"And, after having committed, shall I say, a sin, can we be proud of this revenue of five crores that has come to the credit of our finances. All right, Sir, they may ask, without revenue what can we do? Can we undertake all the works for nation-building? Yes, Sir, it is quite possible to do all those things. But considering the immense moral and physical efficiency that will certainly accrue to the masses of our people, I say we can forego all these five crores and even more. And even if we cannot go on with our schemes otherwise, are we justified in taking these five crores of rupees from the millions of our people who have been impoverished and made miserable on that account? (Hear, hear.) Sir, it is impossible to describe the havoc that has been wrought among the people by the drink evil. The principle that has been working out the finance of the Excise department if bodied forth in our imagination as a demon of Titanic proportions and if we clothe him in the modern vesture fitted with pockets he may trot about the world and play the devil dance jingling the five crores of rupees in his pocket. It is only a demon that can do that, but not a human being nor a human institution. After all, it is not impossible for us to go on with our administration without this particular revenue if we would only be somewhat frugal in the other departments of expenditure. Again, Sir, if we have all the kingdoms of the world and sell thereby our soul, what does it avail? Tiruvalluvar, one of the greatest sages and one of the greatest poets

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of the Tamil land says that poverty brought on by steadfast adherence to righteousness will not be considered a disgrace by the world. With the indulgence of hon. Members who are not acquainted with Tamil, I shall quote his couplet in his own rhythmic words,

'கெடுவாக வையாதுலகம்—நடுவாக
நன்றிக்கண் தங்கியான் தாழ்வு.'

Poverty cannot be considered a disgrace by the world when that poverty is brought about by steadfast adherence to righteousness. (Hear, hear.) Mr. President, will you be pleased to tell me the time at my disposal?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member has got five minutes more."

Mr. T. K. CHIDAMBARANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Then, Sir, coming to the proposed expenditure of 40 lakhs on the General Hospital at Madras, so many have expressed themselves eloquently about it and I have to say a few words in that matter. The science of medicine, Sir, is imperfect and everybody will admit—and even the hon. the Deputy President of this Council will admit I think—the truth of it. About twenty years back the doctors were imperative with regard to the administration of drugs for each and every disease, but what do we find now? They do not prescribe drugs for diseases. They are prescribing only pure water, fresh air and baths. For fever, Sir, it is only cold bath that is recommended, and I myself, Sir, do not take any medicine for any fever except a cold bath (Laughter). Such being the case, is it not premature to invest 40 lakhs of rupees on remodelling the Madras General Hospital which is maintained pretty satisfactorily and is on its sound foundations? Sir, in this connexion I should like to bring to the notice of this House a question, that was propounded some seventy years ago by a great and eminent man of letters and in medicine, and his name must be familiar to all people here. I mean Oliver Wendall Holmes. He was a great doctor as I already told you. He propounded the question in this manner :—

'If the whole materia medica were thrown into the sea what would happen?' and then answers :

'So much the better for mankind and—so much the worse for the sea.' (Laughter.)

"Then, Sir, can we the people of this Presidency afford to quaff medicine to the extent of 40 lakhs of rupees? No, Sir. At this time we do not want it. There are ever so many departments that are sorely in need of money all anxious to develop their resources, and we are not able to provide money for them and we cannot spend 40 lakhs in remodelling or rebuilding one city hospital. As my hon. Friend Mr. Kumaraswami Reddiyar said this morning, there are departments dealing with the problems of rural sanitation, rural reconstruction, etc., all hungering for funds. Such being the case, what is the fun of spending 40 lakhs of rupees on a building which is considered by doctors to be sufficiently good for the patients for the present? It is quite possible when the General Hospital is remodelled the doctors may advise the patients for getting cured to leave the hospital buildings and go to the open air. I do not think there is any the slightest justification for spending 40 lakhs on this score, Sir."

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* Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar :—" Mr. President, Sir, coming immediately after the hon. Member for Tinnevelly who has just preceded me, I am afraid I cannot congratulate the hon. the Finance Member either for his budget or for his speech introducing it. It is more than six years since the Reforms have been inaugurated with a great flourish of trumpets and we are now where we were six years ago. Nay, we are worse off on account of the burden on us of additional expenditure of the costly machinery of the Government. Whenever we want any beneficial measures to be introduced for the people the Government coolly say they have no funds. If we want the paltry pay of the hard-worked village officers and the poor village menials to be increased, the hon. the Revenue Member again pleads want of funds. And yet, the people of India are very heavily taxed. I would ask the Government, Sir, to seriously begin to work at retrenchment. By retrenchment, I do not mean the reduction or removal here of menials and of clerks there. (Hear, hear.) We must begin from the top. I would strongly urge there is no necessity at all for more than two Executive Councillors along with the Ministers to do the work done by three Executive Councillors formerly (A voice : 'Two') . . . Again, look at the enormous cost of the High Court. Even with 14 hon. Judges in the High Court, there are still arrears and provision has been made for the two additional judges for another year. Two or three Judges of the High Court have been engaged with the Original Side work while similar work is being done in the mufassal by District and Subordinate Judges. I would, in this connexion, suggest to the Government to take steps to have the Letters Patent amended so as to abolish the Original Side jurisdiction of the High Court except in special cases and have the work done by District and Subordinate Judges. Again, about the highly paid salaries, we should certainly begin again from the top, and I would strongly urge that salaries below Rs. 100 should not be reduced on any account. To quote from the budget of the hon. the Minister for Development in 1923, 'the Members of the Executive Council and the Ministers of the Cabinet draw a pay which, in the opinion of the country at large, is far too much for the country to afford and for the work they do.' I would ask the Treasury Bench to give up any sense of prestige and themselves consent to a reduction in their salaries as well as a reduction in their travelling allowances. (Hear, hear.)

" Although the budget presented is a deficit one, we should have a surplus of more than a crore of rupees on account of the remission of the Provincial contribution. May I in this connexion, ask the hon. Ministers to try and get the whole of it to be spent on nation-building departments? Already there is an impression that Madras has been treated worse in the allotments. The Department of Agriculture although costing heavily is not correspondingly beneficial to the agriculturist. No steps have yet been taken to give sufficient rural education on agricultural problems in villages. The fees for pumping engines for agricultural purposes have been increased, and even when the ryot is prepared to pay the necessary fees, he does not get the engines in time to save his crops. I know of one instance in my district, when the crops were failing for want of rains and the ryot ran up to the department to get an engine, the department told him that they would first verify whether the crops were really failing, and then send the engine, by which time it would be absolutely useless. I hope, Sir, that the hon. the Minister for Development who is a great friend of the agriculturists would make the department really useful to the ryots.

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" As for the Department of Industries, I have to state that the Government have not been launching out any bold schemes. I believe, Sir, that if the industries of this country should be developed—and the prosperity of the country depends upon it—it can now be done by the initiative of the Government alone. As for the industries that are now being run by the Government, I must say that sufficient care has not been bestowed upon them and they are suffering very much for want of advertisements. I would suggest to the Government that instead of exporting the sandalwood produced, they should start a sandalwood oil factory, which is sure to be successful. A large amount of the revenue comes from the poor people of India, and yet, what do the Government do in return for the taxes, to the poor people of India? While a large amount of money is spent on higher education, very little comparatively is spent on primary education. It will be fresh in the memory of hon. Members of this House how a large number of illiterate voters were subjected to pressure and undue influence in exercising their franchise at the last general elections. Universal compulsory primary education should be introduced without any further delay. I would also suggest to the hon. the Minister for Education to start public libraries at least in all the headquarters of the districts and in towns of more than 40,000 population. In many important towns there is no access to literature of general public interest. The Government should start this work themselves.

3-30 p.m. " I have also to point out that while much is spent in big towns for roads, hospitals, water-supply, etc., the villages are uncared for. There are many big villages, in my district which suffer very much for want of a rural dispensary. And the villagers of my district have also to suffer for their political views. If the President of the Local Board recommends a candidate for election and if he has not the support of a particular village, that village is doomed and it cannot have any dispensary or road. I hope that liberal grants will be made to local bodies, roads, wells and rural dispensaries and that the hon. the Minister will see that villages are not neglected for their political views. I would also suggest to the Government to start Ayurvedic dispensaries in the villages which can be run cheaply. As for irrigation, I submit, Sir, that my district is very much neglected. The ryots under the Red Hills tank and the Cholavaram tank are asked to give up their rights and starve in order that Madras may have good water-supply. I would request the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Chief Minister to find out schemes by which supply of water to Madras may be had without prejudice to the agricultural ryots of my district. I would further ask the hon. the Law Member to devote some attention to my district, which is poor and suffers from want of irrigation facilities.

" Lastly I must express my dissatisfaction at the way in which the excise question is tackled by the Government. While there is agitation in the country for prohibition, excise revenue is increasing. The argument of no funds is most scandalous. If the Government cannot run the administration without excise revenue, they can as well abdicate their functions. What is a Government worth which can only be run by ruining the poor in the country. The Government has to tackle the question seriously or say that they want the drink evil to continue. The Ministerialist party have stated in their programme that the acceptance of prohibition is the goal to be attained by definite and progressive stages. I should like to know if the party has approved the programme. I would ask the hon. the Minister for Excise what

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is the progress he is going to make this year. Already precious time has been lost since the inauguration of the reforms. I would suggest to him that he should fight with the Reserved Half and get not less than fifty lakhs out of the remission of Provincial contributions and devote this for a substantial reduction of the drink evil. I have also to draw the attention of the Government to the illicit sales going on so scandalously everywhere, especially in my district. Even when there is no prohibition we have these illicit sales going on openly in almost every village. The police do not take any steps and the Excise department is useless. I would request the hon. the Minister for Excise to take immediate and effective steps to put an end to the illicit sales. In this connexion, I may say that the hon. the Minister for Excise seems to have said in reply to an address presented to him that if he is convinced of the necessity for prohibition he would certainly take the necessary steps. He has also said in his earlier portion that he is consulting the colleagues of the Reserved Half and that he has also to get the sanction of the Central Government. These things should not stand in the way of making the country dry. I would request the hon. the Minister for Excise to fight out the question and do the needful. If that is impossible I would request the Minister to leave the office and join us. If that is not done there is no use."

* Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—"Mr. President, Sir, in the year 1925-26, the income under land revenue was 770 lakhs; the next year it is very much less—6 lakhs less than the revenue expected and 30 lakhs less than that of the previous year. In other words, the prosperity of the country has been going down and, Sir, in spite of such an obvious fact, we find that this same period has been marked by the large increase of 19 lakhs in the revenue under Excise. This points but to one conclusion, namely, that at a time when the country's resources were becoming poorer, the Government seems to have been encouraging the revenues, under Excise department. Is this the way that the Government intends to fulfil its promises regarding progressive prohibition?

"On looking through the budget of this year, I find that a sum of over 14 lakhs has been allowed to lapse under such heads as Education, Public Health, Medical, Industries and Agriculture. It has often been the experience of local bodies to have their requests for grants under these heads turned down by the Government. And yet, this sum of 14 lakhs has been allowed to lapse and this negligence to utilize the sums allotted is most regrettable and I hope, that in future such lapses will not be known.

"The cry for Indianization of services has been and is being heard throughout the country, and one of the hon. members reminded the hon. the First Member of the cry and requested that it may be remembered in connexion with the employment of officers for the Mettur Project, etc. May I further strengthen that appeal and express the hope that such Indianization will be a true one, in that it should afford equal opportunities for all and monopolies to none?

"The hon. Member for Tinnevelly in the course of his speech pointed out that jurors from rural parts were not above suspicion. While this may be true to some extent, it seems to me that the true causes should be sought elsewhere than in their ignorance or illiteracy. More often than not, such corruption could be traced to the powerful influences brought to bear on such members of the jury, as for instance, some of those gentle arts of persuasion

known to and practised by the officers of the Police department, or again such corruption being not only connived at by either of the counsels but in many cases suggested by them. The evil therefore must be struck at the root.

"The hon. Member for Malabar who based his fears on the very pronouncements of the hon. Member for Irrigation himself, observed that a big project should not be undertaken without an irrigation law. When local bodies are everyday threatened with surcharge in case of so-called unauthorized and illegal expenditure, may I ask, Sir, if the question of surcharge will not apply to the hon. Member in charge of Irrigation and the Members of this House who would vote for the project in the absence of an irrigation law.

"It is to be regretted that the Government has neither definite policy nor principle in making grants for medical relief, etc., in the mufassal. The Municipalities of Ootacamund and Coonoor have had their requests for grants sanctioned for the treatment of relapsing fever. Yet, when a similar request was submitted by the Kollegal Taluk Board which comprises of backward area and bad in finance, the Government declined to make any grant. Such actions do not reflect credit on the policy of the Government—a policy which ought to be consistent throughout. That this should be so is but reasonable to expect inasmuch as we have, not only a surplus budget but a large sum of money saved for this province by the remission of the contribution of this province to the Central Exchequer. While we feel somewhat relieved at this state of our finances we will surely feel gratified when the Government metes out the due justice to the nation-building departments—starved all these days—by completely utilizing this extra money for their benefit.

"Last year or so, a committee sat to enquire into the problem of unemployment in this province. I do not intend suggesting a panacea for every kind of unemployment but I trust that if a Central Industrial School is opened in each district there will be an appreciable decrease in the number of unemployed among the school-leaving certificate holders, who after the necessary courses in such a school will become members of dignified crafts.

"Of the local board activities, much remains to be done yet, in the matter of extending the system of rural medical relief. A number of dispensaries have been opened for rural relief but they are not enough yet. Why is it that only five dispensaries have been opened last year? The reason is that the subsidy offered by Government is not sufficiently attractive for medical practitioners to take to them in sufficiently large numbers. The Government, if it wishes to make its scheme of rural dispensaries a success, should increase its contribution to Rs. 600 per dispensary.

"Among other needs of rural areas should be mentioned, as deserving of special attention, that of opening new roads and improving those in existence. All talk of rural reconstruction will be futile and insincere if proper roads are not opened between villages and their sanitation improved in preference to the magnificent hospital building in Madras.

"While on the subject of improvement of roads, I must point out that the sum of Rs. 1,000 per mile allotted to trunk roads in municipalities is not enough to keep them in condition. The contribution should be raised at least to Rs. 1,500 per mile.

"In conclusion, I will add my congratulations also, to the hon. Finance Member but on this condition that in the utilizing of the surplus amounts

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realized both from the Provincial budget and the contribution to the Imperial Exchequer, the nation-building departments including local boards and municipalities get, if not the whole, at least the greater part, which will be after all only their due."

* Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" Many striking events have happened in the course of the year under review. Firstly, the general elections have been held and the third Council after the Reforms has been called into being. The Justice Party which held its tyrannical sway over the destinies of our Presidency for five long and weary years has at last come to an end. The communal Ministry has been routed at the polls and has altogether disappeared from our midst. For the first time in the annals of the Legislative Council parties have been formed on certain well-defined political principles and not on the accident of birth, creed or circumstance. The complete erasure of the communal Justice party is a matter of supreme satisfaction to the people of our Presidency and they welcome the change with the greatest delight. The Congress party has been returned by a dominant majority who however declined office under the pledges they had given to the country. We have got an unique spectacle of Ministers administering the transferred departments who do not command the support of the majority of the elected representatives in the Council. This is a constitutional anomaly, incidental to a transitional stage and is bound to disappear in course of time. The other remarkable event of the year is the practical wiping out of that iniquitous impost, viz., the levy of provincial contribution to the extent of about 383 lakhs. This budget provides for the recurring remission 116 lakhs and a non-recurring one of 49 lakhs. I sincerely hope and trust that this proposal will be passed in the Legislative Assembly unchallenged and with the whole-hearted support of its members. This ushers in a new financial era and inaugurates the financial autonomy for our province which we have been demanding so long. The abolition of divided heads of revenue is completely established. I heartily join the hon. the Finance Member in his jubilation at the golden prospect of the entire disappearance of the provincial contributions, of the removal of the millstone round the neck of the provincial Government. The long and strenuous fight put up by our Presidency as a whole and notably by the Finance Members in the Council has been at last crowned with success.

"Let him not be afraid of the lions in the path of our Presidency's Pilgrim's progress. I feel confident that there will be no obstacles in the way and that so far this questioned, every responsible representative of the Legislatures is with him. I congratulate the hon. the Finance Member and the people of our Presidency on their good luck. One question we have to address ourselves to at this juncture is as to how to dispose of this happy windfall. I propose that the additional taxation resorted to in the previous years from 1920 and 1921 by way of enhancement of court fee, stamp fee and registration charges may be forthwith abolished and the balance should be earmarked for the use of what are called the development or the nation-building departments, especially for the spread of elementary education, rural, medical and sanitary relief, rural water-supply and village communications and towards the promotion of irrigation schemes. 3-45 p.m.

"Coming to the general features of the budget of the coming year, it shows on paper a deficit of about Rs. 70 lakhs. We are glad to note that there is no real deficit whatever. The current year is expected to open with a

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large balance of about Rs. 134 lakhs, which may be utilized for the purpose of additional expenditure provided for in the budget. The hon. the Finance Member rightly feels that his proposals are open to the criticism of being reckless and extravagant. I do discover a certain amount of recklessness in the budget and venture to give the signal to him for reducing speed. We are labouring under acute famine conditions prevailing in most districts in our Presidency, which are causing great anxiety. In his memorandum he notes that the unfavourable season has reduced our resources, affected the spending power of considerable sections of the community and also diminished employment. This will necessitate a fall of revenue, in the Land Revenue, Excise and other departments, and also will lead to large suspension and remission of Land Revenue and of free and liberal distribution of takavi loans, and liberal allotments have to be made for the purpose. The hon. Member for Finance has failed to take stock of the situation and has made no allowance for the opening of famine-relief work on that large and concentrated scale contemplated by the Famine Code which are imperatively and urgently required in the many famine-affected districts in our Presidency. The hon. Member while realizing the primary duty of the State to alleviate distress in the country, comforts himself by alluding to the irrigation and railway works now in progress, which can afford employment to the labouring classes. They are bound to be local and cannot benefit all the affected areas. He defines the policy of the Government to be in places where famine conditions prevail to finance the local bodies, especially the district boards, and to induce them to start certain road-works in the districts in question. But how far can the local bodies go with their limited resources? Where have they got the agency and staff to undertake the famine-relief works on a comprehensive scale? The State will be simply abdicating its functions if it delegates this kind of work to the local bodies. The gratuitous relief in villages, the opening of grain and fodder depots, the construction of sheds and the making of other sanitary arrangements at the various camps, which form a necessary part of famine relief cannot possibly be undertaken by the local bodies. Evidently, the hon. Member in charge of Finance seems to think that the time is not yet come for opening famine-relief works contemplated by the Famine Code. I am afraid he is mistaken and has failed to read the signs of the times. A casual reference to the seasonable reports of the affected districts will convince him that acute conditions of famine prevail in those places. So far as the district of Bellary is concerned, all the prelimary tests have been fulfilled; the test works provided for by the district board are attracting a very large number of labourers even at reduced wages. Most of them have migrated to other distant parts leaving their wives and children in their homes on account of the delay made by the Government in the opening of relief works. I firmly believe that the time has now arrived when the affected districts should be declared as famine stricken and a comprehensive system of famine relief under various heads and in several forms should be organized. I specially refer to the two wasteful items of expenditure; under the head of Forest, the budget provides for an expenditure of about 51·95 lakhs, while the Revenue will come to only 50 lakhs and secondly the remodelling scheme of the General Hospital at Madras costing about Rs. 40 lakhs and about Rs. 10 lakhs provided for the Pykhara scheme. I do not see the urgent need for the remodelling of the General Hospital. I strongly object to the policy of concentrating everything on the metropolitan hospitals as against the

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district headquarter hospitals, while again incessant cry has been raised for the spread of medical relief in rural areas. The Pykhara scheme is still under investigation. We are not yet convinced about its utility or its profitable or productive nature.

"The resources of the local bodies are still inadequate. The system of making money doles has not yet disappeared. The financial relations between the local bodies and the Provincial Government have not been placed on a sure and sound and firm footing. The most important recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee have not been carried out. I may allude, for instance, to their recommendation that the local bodies should realize one anna from the excise revenue derived in their respective areas. The Taxation Committee has not dealt with the inter-financial relations of the local bodies and the Local Government in an adequate manner. I strongly urge the immediate appointment of a committee of this House for the purpose of defining the financial relations in question. I find a tendency in the policy of Government to reduce the activities of the local bodies to a minimum extent and to assume control over these which legitimately fall under the local sphere of action, or to make grants for certain local services and to retain control over them without making serious attempts to augment their resources. I strongly deprecate the policy which is certain to injure the prospects of Local Self-Government in this Presidency and to mar or destroy their usefulness or independence. The recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Committee have not been considered and carried into effect. They recommend a standardization of the land revenue in the province. The Land Revenue Resettlement Bill is a huge disappointment and a sham. The little control which the Legislative Council reserves to itself under the former Bill has been taken away in the new Bill. The Local Government interprets the recommendation of the Joint Committee of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords that the land revenue should be systematized and fixed and placed on a statutory basis. The present Bill is only an attempt at the codification of the present Resettlement Manual and nothing more.

"Lastly, I have to refer to the most vital and burning topic affecting our districts which are rightly characterized as forming the famine zone of the Presidency, viz., the Ceded districts. The only permanent solution of the ever-recurring famines and scarcities in them will be the early sanction of the Tungabhadra cum Kistna project. The Government appointed a committee of which I was a member to advise the Government on the desirability of starting large schemes like the Tungabhadra scheme in the districts concerned. The committee sat and unanimously recommended a modified form of the Tungabhadra project. We fondly hoped that the Government will sanction the scheme without any delay. The All-India Irrigation Committee proposed it, and Mr. Mackenzie, the Special Engineer, reported on it at great length. It was however shelved in 1900 in favour of the productive schemes like the Cauvery or Kistna reservoir projects. The question was revived again in the Legislative Council. A committee was accordingly appointed with the hon. the Third Minister as its President and the hon. the Second Minister as one of the members. Their unanimous recommendation has been set at naught. The Government say that it is impossible for them to make up their minds without further investigation and the matter has been referred to the Board of Revenue and the Chief Engineer for their opinion thereon. We do not know whether the proposed conference in connexion with this matter has sat and arrived at any

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decision. In the meanwhile, we regret to note that only a petty sum of about Rs. 25,000 has been sanctioned by the Government for further investigation. This is a convenient way of shelving it for one more year. The Government feel that as they are already burdened with immense undertakings on the Cauvery and in the field of hydro-electric department, they cannot sanction the Tungabhadra project even in its modified form. But why should they embark upon other stupendous and costly schemes without settling this long-standing and acute question affecting our districts. The Mettur project or the hydro-electric scheme may bring in additional revenue into the coffers of the Government. But the scheme of the Tungabhadra project will go to improve the chronic economic condition of the people in the famine zone and will permanently prevent the constantly recurring famine and distress in those localities. What is the use of showering plenty where it already abounds? I humbly ask which is the more laudable undertaking, whether to earn more money or to relieve distress. The question has been very seriously exercising the minds of the people in the Ceded districts and they strongly urge the early sanction of the scheme on the attention of the Government."

* Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar :—" Mr. President, Sir, if I rise to offer a few remarks on the budget of the year, it is with a view to draw attention to the special needs of my district which I think have not been adequately considered by the different departments.

" Let me first take the question of irrigation. The district of Salem has been very severely hit by the present seasonal conditions. The need for improved irrigation is very great and the people were looking forward to an era of prosperity by the scheme for which crores are to be spent, viz., the Mettur Project scheme.

" We had hoped from the repeated assurances of the hon. Member for Irrigation that Salem district also would get some share of the water-supply. Mettur is within our district border ; the reservoir is going to be almost within Salem district proper. Our valuable lands within the projected area are going to be taken up by the Government. Many villages are being vacated because they will be submerged by the new reservoir but we are told that no water can be given to Salem district. We are in the position of the ancient mariner and have only the consolation of crying 'water, water everywhere, not a drop to irrigation.'

" I trust, Sir, that suitable arrangements will be made so as to give some chance to the people of Salem who are much worse off than those of other districts to get some water for their lands.

" When such is the condition of water-supply to the lands, one may imagine what would be the state of water-supply for drinking purposes. The scarcity is so great that even drinking water is not available in some taluks, namely, Tiruchengodu, Namakkal, Rasipur and Hosur. The Government have hardly bestowed any attention on the subject. The gravity of the problem will be realized when I say that the Salem District Board had spent about Rs. 53,000 in the year 1926-27 and has allotted Rs. 50,000 for the year 1927-28, for water-supply for the depressed classes alone. We felt our responsibility in the matter and in spite of a special labour department in charge of the depressed classes, the District Board has undertaken the financial burden. It

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is up to the Government now to help the Board with an equivalent grant at least in the year 1927–28. I hope, Sir, that the Labour Department and the Finance Department will discharge their responsibility in the matter.

"I should further like to invite the attention of the House to the fact that Government have not yet done anything to help the local boards in their campaign against infantile mortality and maternal mortality. It is not necessary for me to repeat the figures of death rate of these two mortalities as they were clearly pointed out yesterday by the hon. Member, Dr. Muthulakshmi Ammal. In this matter, also, the Salem District Board has been doing its best during the last three years in carrying on the propaganda for child welfare and in opening centres for maternity relief. The work is so great, the demand is so large that I feel justified in calling upon the Provincial Government to take its share, now that the finances of the province are in a good condition and to pay from the provincial contributions which are likely to be remitted. I think it is only fair that the Government should take its share in carrying on this work.

"Next I would like to take up the question of village communication and rural medical relief. It is no good expecting contributions from local bodies for the improvements of these two items. The funds at the disposal of the province are ample for such work to be undertaken entirely by the provincial Government. If the Finance Member suggests that it is unscientific to undertake such works directly and finance them entirely, I would only say that the present financial conditions of the local bodies do not permit of an alternative. So I suggest that the provision made in the budget for these purposes may be increased so as to render full help to the local bodies.

"I will now come to the roads. The present grant for trunk roads and second-class roads is proving quite inadequate for the purpose. The grant of Rs. 500 per mile for trunk roads and Rs. 200 per mile for second-class roads was fixed some years ago when the motor traffic was not much. Now the large increase in motor traffic and particularly heavy bus traffic has deteriorated the roads so much the Government must increase the rate of grant if the roads are to be maintained in proper condition. There are two alternatives before the Government—either they should at stated intervals give special grants as before for re-laying the roads in addition to the annual grants or they should raise the annual grants. I am certain that the problem will press itself on the attention of the Government very soon. 4 p.m

"With reference to trunk roads, they have a special responsibility. And at a time when an Imperial Road Board has been constituted, they cannot shirk their responsibility. If they continue their present policy, they will soon find it necessary to undergo large capital expenditure in re-laying roads. I trust they will pursue the more far sighted policy of increasing the grants for the roads.

"I should also like to draw the attention of the Government to the long-felt and urgent need for a new building for the Salem College. The Government have promised a grant, but the question has been held up owing to dispute about the site. As there is no reason to change the present approved site, I trust the hon. the Education Minister will not hold up the matter any longer, but will allow the work to be undertaken and finished soon.

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" Regarding the grants given by the Government to the local bodies for secondary education, I do not know what prompted them to deviate from the policy of fixing grants every year according to the needs of the local boards and to adopt a policy of fixing the amount of grants for a period of three years. This new policy, I think, will not be conducive to the improvement of secondary education. So I trust the Government will consider this matter and go in for the old policy.

" Before I finish, I wish to say a word about the drainage scheme of Salem town. This question was under the consideration of Government for some time past. I do not see any provision made in the Budget. As this is also an important and urgent matter for the improvement of the sanitation of the town, especially when there is the water-supply scheme in force for so many years, I hope the Government will pay their early attention to this matter also.

" In conclusion, I congratulate the hon. the Finance Member on the presentation of a surplus budget, but I have only to express my regret that in the era of prosperity, neither halves of Government have tried to do anything worth mentioning to relieve the pitiable condition of the rural population."

* Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I do not know whether it is quite fashionable to compliment the Finance Member who manages to present a deficit budget every year, but I want to say this much in fairness to him, that our Finance Member has become an expert in the preparation of deficit budgets. If really the discussion on the budget is going to serve any useful purpose, I wish to offer a few remarks.

" The important question which is agitating the public mind to-day is that of the excise policy. The present policy of the Government with regard to this subject cannot be too strongly criticized. It is a very immoral source of income that the Government are raising by this merciless excise policy, without any regard to the health, welfare and economies of the people. This time a good Christian is in charge of excise and I hope he is not a believer in moderate drinking. Now, in spite of the deficit budget, we have a substantial windfall from Delhi and a very good opening balance. About half the amount of provincial remission may be set apart in order to meet the loss in revenue by the hon. Minister launching forth a policy of prohibition leading ultimately to total prohibition. This is an excellent opportunity for the Ministry to grasp and, if they fail to rise to the occasion now, they are damned for ever. No doubt they will be side-tracked by the other half on the Treasury Bench, but the Ministry should take a firm and bold stand and bring the incorrigible section of the Treasury Bench to acquiesce in and carry out a policy leading shortly to total prohibition. If they fail to achieve this well, they should say good-bye to their colleagues and come out.

" Turning to the question of judicial administration, it is time now that steps are taken at once to reduce the rates on stamps, court fee and registration. This increase is doing a good deal of harm to the people by preventing them from getting justice on account of the costliness it involved to the average man. Judicial administration should never be made a source of revenue. No doubt it may be argued that poor people have no business to go to a court, but it is the rich man that draws the poor man to court. (Hear, hear.) Therefore it is desirable that the rates are reduced to the old level and the consequent loss of revenue be met by a portion of the windfall."

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"Another question which is long pending, though it ought to be immediately attended to, is that of the separation of the judicial and executive functions. This question has been before the country ever since Mr. F. J. Halliday wrote his famous minute on this question in 1838. After many intermediate stages, the subject came again to prominence in 1917 when the Report of the Public Services Commission was published and ever since the question has been shelved. Nobody will dispute the sound principle on which this separation is urged and the advantages which such a separation will bestow on the public.

"I dare say, Sir, that if only the hon. the Law Member will treat this question with half the attention and zeal with which he pushes on the Mettur project, on which crores of rupees are spent, this question of separation of the judicial and executive functions would have been an accomplished fact. Sir, I leave the question of the Mettur project to the hon. Member from Coimbatore who is conversant with it.

"With regard to the severe drought this year, this House recommended for remissions but, as a matter of fact, no appreciable remissions have been granted and the hon. the Revenue Member coolly said the other day when the hon. Member from Ramnad wished to include his district in the list of districts requiring remission, that no district will suffer either by inclusion or exclusion. That is the result of diarchy. In fact, I hear from my district that the collection of tax is more stringent this year than it was ever before. I think the difficulty is—I may be wrong but that is what I think—that if remission is granted this year it will serve as a dangerous precedent for coming years. That I deem is what the hon. the Revenue Member is afraid of.

"Another question which has immediately to be solved is the land revenue settlement. Nobody can dispute that the poor ryot is overburdened with tax. There is absolutely no use in building new agricultural colleges, opening demonstration farms and all that sort of showy things, which do not lessen the burden of the poor ryot. Nothing short of reduction of tax will improve their position.

"I may also mention that the Board of Revenue has become an unnecessary establishment and I see that the hon. Members of this House have been expressing their wish that it should be abolished at once. But it is still there flourishing as merrily as ever.

"Passing on to the forest domains of the hon. the Home Member, I may say that the forest policy of the Government affects the ryots very prejudicially. Areas which are almost bald or with some shrubs where even a cat cannot hide itself, are called reserve forests (hear, hear) and the Forest Department prevent the ryots from allowing their cattle to graze or take leaves for manure. I see some improvement now, that they are disafforesting some of these so-called reserved forests, but they must go on still more quickly. The ryots, Sir, are so keen about this question of grazing their cattle and collecting manure leaves from the trees that they will be very much pleased if the hon. the Home Member will devote more attention to this and deliver them from the tyranny of the forest officials and their regulations. I will even go to the length of saying that the day on which the Home Member issues the fiat that these forest rules and regulations should go, that day will be celebrated as a day of deliverance, worthy of commemoration.

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"Now, Sir, coming to the Chief Minister whom I do not see here, he is rather beginning to abuse the power of nomination. It ought to be nipped in the bud. He is following a progressive policy in this year of Grace 1927, by replacing women by male members on local bodies. For instance, in the District Board of Chingleput, in the place of a lady member he has put in a gentleman member selected from a community very predominantly represented on that board. I cannot see any reason for this glaring violation of the principle of nomination. Nomination, I believe, Sir, is intended for selecting persons from out of minorities and depressed and backward classes. Of course he may take shelter under the usual argument of that real efficiency, expert knowledge and so on. But that will not always effectually help him.

"Coming to the Agricultural Department, I may say that that is a department in which the Minister can do a lot to alleviate the real grievances of the people; but without the co-operation of the Members on the Treasury Bench in the matter of finance, I do not think he will be able to achieve much. However he can do a lot for the improvement of co-operative societies, especially for the development of the non-credit side of the co-operative societies. Then, with regard to medical relief to the rural population, a number of people die during epidemics because they are not cared for and have no proper medical aid near at hand. If only the Minister for Public Health takes some interest in this and does something for these poor villagers who die as victims to fell diseases, I am certain the death-rate will not be so high and people will he healthy and happy.

4-15 p.m. "Finally, Sir, I may say that in the service of the Government the backward classes ought to be given their proper share. At present they are neglected between two stools. I am not forgetful of the interest awakened for the betterment of the depressed classes. But, while I admit it is rather scanty, there is still plenty of room for a liberal treatment of the depressed classes. I urge that the claims of the backward classes should not be forgotten and overlooked in the wider classification of non-Brahman Hindus."

* The ZAMINDAR OF GOLLAPALLI :—"Mr. President, Sir, let me add my quota of congratulations to the hon. the Finance Member for getting such a budget even under the present disharmonious relations of weather and politics.

"As this is my maiden attempt to discuss a provincial budget, the House would correct me if I go wrong.

"Sir, let me explain my position and policy before grappling with this budget. I am returned to the Council by a constituency which is alleged to be rather conservative. But, Sir, I feel proud to say that my constituency consists of more liberal minded persons, both socially and politically, than any other constituencies. I am a spokesman to my trust. I shall be failing in my duty, if I could not or would not voice forth their feelings here. So, Sir, my main complaint about this budget is that it touches the proprietors of this Presidency most. After fulfilling my trust, I shall be a poor man's friend who is living in rural areas, without education, soaked in ignorance and superstition.

"I think, Sir, a deficit budget is a healthy sign and our budget is a deficit budget. My pious hope of the country being a healthy one remains to be fulfilled. I shall now consider the condition of agriculture and irrigation which are nearest to the heart of my constituency. Our province is full of

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irrigation sources and, by a slight manipulation of these, every inch of land can be sown and reaped. Sir, India was is, and always will be an agricultural country. I hear that in Italy every acre of land yields twice as much as an acre in our province. Why so, Sir? It is because of State-aid. In this budget, we have been provided with a pittance for this purpose compared with General Administration and other main items. Sir, the sap of the country is stifled. How can the tree live and bear fruit under such circumstances? The State ought to be giving a helping hand to the poor ryot and over-burdened proprietor in the shape of loans and general instructions for agricultural purposes. They should introduce new methods of manuring, etc. You may say that the proprietor or the tenant can utilize the co-operative societies. There, Sir, the burden of collection of dues falls on a single individual who would advance loans only to persons from whom it can be easily got back and not to poor persons. But an executive officer of the Government who has got very little work in the zamindari tracts may be asked to collect the dues in reasonable instalments after the tenant has gathered his crops. There should be more propaganda work done among the masses for the purpose of teaching them the best and improved methods of agriculture.

"Now, Sir, let me enumerate the difficulties of the village staff in proprietary villages. The proprietary village officers and servants used to get lava zama and work before the enfranchisement of service inams. Lava zama is a kind of commission on the collections they used to make for their proprietors. The proprietors used to love them as their own children for the good service the village staff was rendering them. The village officer used to collect the kist of the proprietor to the best of his ability having an eye on the lava zama and also pleasing his master. The enfranchisement of inams cut the chord of affinity between the proprietor and his village officer. The village officer has to pay heavy quit-rent on his inam lands. He gets in return for his service under the Government and the proprietor a pittance of 8 or 12 rupees per mensem. He has to pay homage to every revenue inspector that passes through the village. If he is at the proprietor's headquarters on some official business just imagine his deplorable predicament, were he to be summoned at the same time by the Government officers and vice versa. He is between the chisel and the nut. He has to make both ends meet with his small salary reserving a heavy percentage of it for the freaks of officers. If we look at the budget, the revenue from quit-rent of the enfranchised service inams is seen to be 8 lakhs for the last year and is expected to be the same this year. But lo! Look at the expenditure? It was 16·48 lakhs last year and this year it is expected to be 16·321 lakhs. So, Sir, the difference payable out of the general revenues last year was 8·48 lakhs while this year it would be 8·321 lakhs. Under the circumstances the Government are hesitating to enhance the salaries. So, it is requested that the lava zama system may be restored and the half-starved proprietary village officers and servants saved. This will also revive the harmony between the proprietor and his village staff.

"Sir, the Department of Public Health is to be overhauled. There is very little propaganda in the rural areas in the matter of hygiene and sanitation. The Health and Baby Week which is a part of the programme of the department is not being encouraged by it to its fullest extent. There are many municipalities where sanitation is neglected. In the budget we

find a very small sum of Rs. 33·98 lakhs apportioned for this department. Out of this sum about a third or a half goes for establishment and other charges. More capable and interested officers should be employed if sanitation in rural and urban areas is to be improved. I therefore request that more money should be spent on this department.

"The famine conditions are becoming more and more frequent, and yet only a very small sum has been provided for the purpose. The need of the hour is to save the poor labourers and agriculturists with their prolific families. This major head should therefore be provided with more funds. We are happy to hear from the Finance Members both of the Imperial and Provincial Government that our ardent wish to get the provincial contributions released will soon be realized. The amount thus released should be utilized for the benefit of transferred subjects.

"With regard to education I regret that the sap of the young has been sucked and the skeletons which remain are being prepared for quill driving in some dingy office. The young brains are overtaxed with a foreign language. It would be desirable and better if all the subjects up to the high school classes are taught in the vernaculars. There ought to be vocational training in every class. Those who could not afford to go to arts or law—everybody is compelled to do so now—can take up vocational training in all classes. Then the country will have artizans, smiths, engravers, weavers, engineers and mechanics. There should be grades in vocational training. Up to the secondary standard, both vocational and arts training may be taught side by side. Then different groups of colleges and schools are to be established leaving it to the student to take up whatever course he likes to undergo. It is this system which the hon. the late Minister for Education advocated when he kindly visited our parts. But up to this time I am not aware of steps being taken in that direction. I request the present Ministry to take up this programme and go forward with it, although the budget as presented does not contain any provision for the purpose. It has been kindly stated by His Excellency the Governor in his inauguration speech of the Andhra University 'the Andhra University is a pet child of Sir A. P. Patro, the late Minister for Education.' Sir, I request the present Ministry not to change the 'pet' into a 'step', and view the Andhra University as a step child. Sir, I request the above grants to be sanctioned by the House without any cut.

"The provincial heads of departments especially those in the Transferred half are touring mostly only in the parts known to them. They will be pleased to extend their tours to all parts of the Presidency. The chief object of their tours should be to find out the defects in the administration and the grievances of the public by surprise visits.

"Lastly, a word about local boards before I finish my speech. Sir, everywhere there is a cry that the presidents of local boards and municipalities are autocratic in the carrying out of boards' orders. So, Sir, an executive body consisting of three members from each board may be formed to assist the presidents in all their actions. Sir, finally I make a request to the Government to be pleased to provide the Transferred half with more funds for the benefit of the province."

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* Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu :—" Mr. President, Sir, I am used to waiting for my name being called in connexion with cases, but there the thing is different. I have got the hope that I would be able to do something for my client. Unfortunately that hope has not been entertained in this case, because there is no likelihood of it being fulfilled.

" The hon. the Finance Member is already overburdened with the heavy load of congratulations given to him for the budget and I do not wish to load him further. It is not further a budget upon which I can congratulate the hon. Member. It has been stated by the previous speakers that diarchic administration is of no use in this country and that diarchy is absolutely unworkable. Member after Member from every part of the House gets up and narrates a tale of unabated woe, economic and otherwise of the people of the province.

" Now, let us examine the activities of the transferred as well as the reserved half. First and foremost comes the question of land revenue. Sir, the question of permanent settlement has been in the forefront for over half a century and nothing has been done with regard to it. Nobody even refers to it with any sort of hope. Very recently a Land Revenue Bill has been published. It is almost a copy of the previous Land Revenue Bill of 1924. It simply legalises the existing practice of settlement and it gives to the Legislative Council the simple status of an ordinary consultative body leaving the effective voice to the Government as the ultimate arbiter. Therefore this Land Revenue Bill is of no use to the country.

" I may also point out in this connexion one important point. And that is this: in the case of income-tax, in the case of profession tax and in the case of house-tax in the municipalities there is what is known as the assessable minimum. In the case of this Land Revenue Bill we find absolutely nothing of the sort. We know, Sir, that 72 per cent of the people of this province live upon agriculture and that 70 per cent of the pattadars pay an assessment of Rs. 10 and below Rs. 10. Time forbids a detailed narration of the woes of the poor ryot and I do not attempt it as it is a fact well known to all. Is it too much to expect that the Government might for once err into the right path and be guilty of at least one single beneficial act by exempting these pattadars paying Rs. 10 and below from land assessment? It might be put against me that the money is to come from some other source. In answer to that I will put it to the Government and to the Treasury Bench ' Remove the top-heavy administration. Remove everybody who has been found to be unfit and abolish the Revenue Board. Make the Government stronger and stronger and infuse greater contentment among the people who are your mainstay and thus effectuate this policy '. At least err into the right path for one single time in the life time of this Government. Of course there is nothing revolutionary about it. This idea of mine was the subject of a resolution passed by the Godavari District Association with which I happened to be connected two years back. Would it be too much to suggest that re-settlement operations now going on in the Godavari district may be ordered to be suspended until the Land Revenue Bill becomes law. Of course not much of benefit will be derived from it. But yet let something be done as a result of our placing this tale of woe before the Legislative Council. So I suggest that the land revenue settlement operations in the Godavari district may be suspended until the Land Revenue Bill becomes law.

[Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu] [4th March 1927

4-30 p.m. "Now, we must go to the question of irrigation. With reference to irrigation, things are done in a hole and corner fashion with no enactment or regulation regulating the principles of irrigation. If there had been such regulations and enactments, the anomaly spoken of by my hon. Colleague from West Godavari would not have taken place. There is neither law nor logic in the levy of inducement fee after the pattadars have got their lands entered as wet and that on the payment of a heavy penalty of Rs. 20 per acre. The very moment land is entered in the wet ayacut, the necessity for the levy of inducement fee automatically disappears. I cannot understand under what consideration the Government are continuing to levy the fee if it is not due to want of foresight.

"Now that I am on this subject of irrigation, may I give expression to a feeling which is not insignificant that in the matter of irrigation works taken up by the Government, northern districts are not being treated as fairly as it ought to be? Except the Polavaram Island project that has been taken up—not a very costly scheme when compared with Pykhara or Mettur scheme—no other project Coringa or Torrigedda has been taken up. We have been pressing the matter in time and out of time. Nothing has been done in these matters. I do not mean anything ill to my brothers from the south but I think I am entitled to complain of neglect of our parts.

"With reference to civil justice, I may point out that I agree with all that has been said by the hon. Member, Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar, the other day. I would only refer to what is taking place in the district to which I belong. The District Judge issues a circular to all the subordinate judiciary including Sub-Judges to send returns of monthly disposal of cases. It will be within the knowledge of most of the hon. Members of this House that in Sub-Judges' courts it happens that a large number of original suits could not be finished within the course of the month. So much so, the trepidation that the Sub-Judge will have to show at the end of the month for a nil statement of disposal and his nervousness we can naturally conceive. With that sort of equanimity and balance of temper—with this sword hanging upon his head, the monthly diposal returns—he will not be in a position to deal out justice as he is expected to do, as referred to by the hon. Member Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar, law reporting as is done now, it is not bringing more law but it is bringing more confusion. I request the hon. the Law Member to take up the matter in right earnest and that at an early time.

"Now, Sir, I turn to the transferred half which is said to be in charge of what are called nation building activities. It is an irony of things that this branch which has been for the last six years in charge of nation building departments, has behaved in such a manner that in actual working, the acts of this branch have destroyed the nation building activities. Professing total prohibition in this House as well as in public meetings, a big circular happens to be issued to the Health Officers of the Municipalities not to preach against drink. You can conceive the anomaly of the professions and the actions.

"Then again, Sir, with reference to spinning, so much is talked of by the ex-Minister about the introduction of vocational training in institutions and when spinning is attempted to be introduced into schools, a circular happens to be issued that spinning and weaving ought to be introduced and not spinning alone. I am not able to understand how spinning by itself will not form part of vocational education.

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"There is another matter with regard to Hindi instruction in schools. In spite of the fact that so far as our municipality is concerned—the District Educational Council recommended the proposal—the proposal is knocked on the head.

"We have got three instances. It providentially happens that these are matters which are connected with the constructive activities of the National Congress party during all these years; and it providentially happens that in these three instances the Ministry acts up in a manner which will necessarily indicate that they want to forsake the country and embrace the Government. I think it was because the Ministry wanted to rely upon the Government completely for their existence and they wanted to play to the tune of the Government and forsake the country.

"My point is this: There is no use ignoring the existing state of things. The strength of the schools is going down on account of the absence of instruction in Hindi. My one request is that both the Reserved half and the Transferred half ought not to ignore the state of feeling that is operating in the country; they will have to take cognizance of it and face it if they mean to do business at all. That is my first point.

"I would submit that both the Reserved half and the Transferred half will have to begin with a clean slate and with a clear heart. All the mistakes and the blunders ought to be erased before they mean to do serious business. They must have the slate clean. By clear heart, I mean that they will have to turn over a new leaf; they will have to get rid of all ideas of prestige; they will have to do away with the top-heavy administration and administer the country profitably.

"One of my hon. Friends on the other side wanted Indianization of the services. I would not be content with the Indianization of the services only. I want Indianization of the policy; I want Indianization of all interests. Until then I would not be satisfied."

*Mr. Chavadi K. Subrahmanya Pillai:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am sorry I do not feel called upon to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member upon his Budget, and this attitude of mine is due not to the preparation of the Budget but to the inadequate provision made for subjects of national importance. Expenditure has gone up to thrice the pre-war height and revenue is whipped beyond endurance to keep pace with it. Not a year passes without creating new appointments and new cadres, and even the few indifferent nation-building schemes on hand are starved. Travelling allowances are in a princely scale, and it is an open secret that many of those that draw them live upon them, saving their salaries. If it is a question of exchange ratio and deflation, index numbers of prices are trotted out to show the fall in prices and the consequent necessity for deflation and for raising the value of the rupee. But when it is a question of salaries of Government servants and of Government expenditure index numbers are given the go-by. When it comes to settlement of land-tax the same price levels are shown to be high to justify the $18\frac{3}{4}$ per cent rise in land tax. I am one of those who felt that the Government was doing a very wrong thing when during the last stages of the great war and its aftermath they raised the pay and emoluments of their servants to giddy heights most unnecessarily and without stipulating for their temporary character. It is an evil day for the country when office under Government is the most coveted thing and other walks of life are sought for as a last resort.

[Mr. Ch. K. Subrahmanya Pillai] [4th March 1927

* "Unless and until the salaries of all the higher officers are put on sane levels, unless and until a great cut is made in the army of Government servants, taxes will go on increasing and the people will be progressively impoverished. It has been said that Indian revenues are elastic but, if so, they are always on the stretch and are stretched every year more and more and they are never known to be allowed to resume their normal tension. I for one think they are near snapping point. The Government is nowhere near Indianization of the services which should result in substantial savings to the country and to this Presidency, and there is no indication of their movement in that direction in the budget. While every sympathy should be shown to the depressed communities and preference shown to them in assignment of lands on dharkhast as in many other respects it is a moot point whether waste lands should be permanently reserved for allotment to them for years together in expectation of their applications and withheld from other deserving poor classes of people. I now pass on to the number of kistbandis in the revenue collections. The hon. the Revenue Member will, I hope, realize what tragedies lie behind the monthly whips from February to May laid by the Tahsildars on the village headmen for prompt collection of land revenue. I would entreat the hon. the Revenue Member to seriously consider whether for four kistbandis seven should not be substituted, four from March to June and three from September to November.

"I now come to the portfolio of the hon. the Law Member. While we should be and are grateful to the hon. the Law Member during whose tenure irrigation works have received considerable impetus, I would impress upon him that the repairs of existing irrigation works are even more urgent and there are channels and anicuts that were never repaired within the memory of man, for instance the Manur anicut and Manur channel in the Tinnevelly district.

"Regarding the administration of the Department of Local Self-Government ever since the Reform and ever since the old Acts gave place to the Acts of 1920, great friction has prevailed in many of the districts between the chairmen or presidents on the one hand and the members of councils or boards on the other. The laxity of the rules and the ambiguity of the wording of the Acts are things that should engage the immediate attention of the Government. The question whether chairmanship of boards and municipalities should not be thrown open for direct election by the wider electorate which chooses the members should be considered by the Government in all its aspects. I cannot say the administration of municipalities and local boards has been all that it should be.

"I should like pointed attention of the hon. the Minister for Development to be directed to the condition of co-operative societies in the Presidency. The various officers connected with them are keener upon showing paper results than upon consolidating the ground already won. Instead of a frank recognition of a bad situation regarding the punctual return of loans and application of correct remedies in the shape of proper personnel and stricter and more efficient control, the department suggests long-term loans. That is a question that should be thrashed out with mature deliberation lest greater disasters should overcome the societies. The Government should impress upon the officers that it is not more societies that are required but the strengthening of the existing societies and stricter supervision over them,

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Auditing should not be confined to mere arithmetical verification and tallies of accounts but should extend deeper into the investigation of the soundness of the borrowers and the securities.

"With regard to the department of Education, while increased allotments are made for the universities and all other items coming under the head of Education, there is no new venture in the shape of schools or colleges for imparting technical knowledge of national importance. I trust also that during the year some more steps will be taken towards the formation of the Tamil university.

"The village medical relief so far given is like a drop in the ocean and its extension will relieve the unemployment of medical men while relieving the pain and sickness of millions.

"We are not yet in sight of reasonably cheap justice and there is no promise in the budget of a reduction in court fees—the oppressive and prohibitive tax on justice. The denudation of Papanasam forest is still going on and the extent and the result of the operations so far are not narrated and the budget has left us in the dark about it."

* Mr. K. KRISHNASWAMI NAYAKAR:—"அக்கிராசனரவர்களே! கனம் பொருந்திய Finance மெம்பர் அவர்கள் கொடுத்த வரவு சிலவு திட்டம் மிகவும் அதிருப்திகரமாயிருக்கிறதென்று நான் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறேன். இந்த சட்டசபைத் தேர்தல் சமீபத்திலேயே நடந்ததாகையால் கிராம வாசிகள் வெளியிட்டக் குறைகளும், கவர்ன்மெண்டைப் பற்றியும் சட்ட சபைகளைப்பற்றியும் அவர்கள் என்ன சொல்லிக் கொள்கிறார்கள் என்பதும் அங்கத்தினர்கள் ஞாபகத்திலிருக்கலாம். ஓட்டுக்காக அபேக்ஷகர்கள் போனபோது பிரதி கிராமங்களிலும் ஜனங்கள், 'ஓட்டுக் கொடுப்பதில் என்ன பிரயோஜனம்! எங்கள் பேரிலுள்ள வரிச்சுமை அதிகப்படுகிறதே யல்லாமல் எவர் சட்ட சபைக்குப் போனபோதிலும் எங்களுக்கு ஒரு நன்மையுமில்லை,' என்று சொன்னார்கள். இவ்விதம் ஜனங்கள் நினைப்பதற்குத் தகுந்த நியாயங்கள் இருக்கின்றதென்பதை ஒருவரும் மறுக்கமுடியாது. சென்ற ஆறு வருடங்களாய் புதிய சீர்திருத்தங்களால் கவர்ன்மெண்டின் சிலவு ஏராளமாய் அதிகப்பட்டிருக்கிறதே தவிர ஜனங்களின் சௌகர்யங்களில் ஒரு அனுகூலமும் உண்டாகவில்லை. என்னுடைய ஜில்லாவில் அனேக கிராமங்களில் போக்குவரத்துக்குச் சரியான பாதைகளில்லாமலும், குடிக்க ஜலவசதியில்லாமலும் ஜனங்கள் கஷ்டப்படுகின்றார்கள் என்றால், சீர்திருத்தங்கள் யாருக்காக ஏற்பட்டனவென்று நான் கேட்கிறேன். இந்த முக்கிய சௌகர்யங்கள்கூட கவர்ன்மெண்டு சரிவர செய்யமுடியாவிட்டால் கவர்ன்மெண்டும் சட்ட சபைகளும் எதற்காகவென்று நான் கேட்கிறேன். ஒரு கிராமத்திலுள்ள ஜனங்கள் ஒரு பாதை போடவேண்டும் என்றோ, ஒரு ஆஸ்பத்திரி வேண்டுமென்றோ, தாலுக்கா போர்டாரைக் கேட்டால், அவர்கள் தங்களிடம் பணமில்லை என்கிறார்கள். கவர்ன்மெண்டை ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபனங்களுக்கு பண உதவிசெய்யும்படிக் கேட்டாலோ தங்களிடம் பணமில்லை என்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் ஸ்தலஸ்தாபனங்களும் கவர்ன்மெண்டும் எவ்வளவு வரி போடலாமோ அவ்வளவும் போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் ஏழைகளிடம் வாங்கும் வரியே பெருத்த சம்பளங்களாகவும் இன்னும் ஜனங்களுக்கு அனுகூலமில்லாத இதர வழிகளிலும் சிலவிடப்படு

[Mr. K. Krishnaswami Nayakar] [4th March 1927

கிறது. மற்றெந்த கவர்ன்மெண்டிலும் இந்த கவர்ன்மெண்டில் உள்ளது போல் உயர்ந்த சம்பளங்கள் இல்லே. நிர்வாக கவுன்ஸில் மெம்பர்களும் மந்திரிகளும் தாங்களாகவே குறைந்த சம்பளம் ஒப்புக்கொள்வார்களென்று நான் நம்புகிறேன். கவர்ன்மெண்டாருக்கு உண்மையில் ஜனங்களிடம் அன்பு இருந்தால் அநியாய சிலவைக் குறைத்து ஏழை ஜனங்களுடைய சௌகர்யங்களுக்கு செலவு செய்யவேண்டும். நிர்வாக மெம்பர்களுக்கும் மந்திரிகளுக்கும் வெளிப்பிரயாணத்திற்கு செலூன் அனுவசியம். அவர்கள் இனி செலூனில் போகமாட்டார்கள் என்று நான் நம்புகிறேன். மற்றும் நமது நாட்டில் முழுவயிருக்கு உண்ண வழியில்லாமல் அநேக ஏழைகள் கஷ்டப்படும்போது பெரிய உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் தாங்கள் வாங்கும் பெருத்தச் சம்பளங்களில் ஏன் கொஞ்சம் குறைக்கக்கூடாதென்று நான் கேட்கிறேன். என்னுடைய ஜில்லாவில் நீர்ப்பாய்ச்சல் விஷயத்தில் கவர்ன்மெண்டு வேண்டியவரையில் கவனிப்பதேயில்லே. அனேகமாய் ஆற்றுக்கால் பாய்ச்சலில்லாமல் ஏரிகளேயும், மழையையுமே எதிர்ப்பார்த்திருக்கும் செங்கல்பட்டு ஜில்லாவில் கவர்ன்மெண்டார் கொஞ்சம் கவனம் செலுத்தி நீர்ப்பாய்ச்சல் முதலான வசதியை விருத்திசெய்யவேண்டும். காட்டிலாகா விஷயத்தில் என் ஜில்லாவிலுள்ள ஜனங்கள் மிகுந்த கஷ்டப்படுகிருர்கள். காட்டிலாகாவினுல் கவர்ன்மெண்டு தங்களுடைய வருமானத்தை மாத்திரம் கவனியாமல், வியவசாயிகளுடைய நன்மையும் கவனிக்கவேண்டும். வரிகள் மூன்று மடங்கு அதிகமாகிவிட்டன. குடியானவர்களுடைய வீட்டுக்கு பக்கத்திலேயே காடுகளிருப்பதால் ஆடுமாடுகள் காட்டுக்குள் அடிக்கடி நுழையும்படி இருக்கிறது. அப்படி நுழைந்தால் உடனே பிடித்து பவுண்டில் அடைத்து அபராதம் போடுகிருர்கள். இவ்விதம் ஏழை வியவசாயிகள் ஹிம்சிக்கப்பட்டுவருகிருர்கள். காட்டு வரியைக் குறித்து ஜனங்கள் குடி இருக்கும் வீடுகளுக்கு கொஞ்சம் தூரம் வரையில் காடுகள் இருக்கக்கூடாதென்று கவர்ன்மெண்டு ஏற்பாடு செய்ய வேண்டும்.

" சுகாதார விஷயத்திலும் வைத்திய விஷயத்திலும், கவர்ன்மெண்டு ஏராளமாய் செலவு செய்கிறபோதிலும் கிராமங்களில் சுகாதார விஷயத்தை போதிப்பதற்கு, இதுவரையில் கவர்ன்மெண்டு ஒரு ஏற்பாடும் செய்யவில்லே. வயித்திய வசதிகளும் இல்லே. தவிர ஜனப் பிரதிநிதிகளாகிய மந்திரிகள் ஆறு வருஷம் கவர்ன்மெண்டு நடத்திய பின்னும், என் ஜில்லாவில அநேக கிராமங்களில் நாகதாளிப் புதர்களிருப்பதை காணலாம். இவைகளே கவர்ன்மெண்டார் எடுக்காமல் கிராமத்தாரை எடுக்கும்படி கவர்ன்மெண்டு நோட்டீஸ் கொடுக்கிருர்கள். அவர்கள் எடுக்காவிட்டால், கவர்ன்மெண்டே எடுத்து கிராமத்தாரிடம் செலவை வசூல் செய்கிருர்கள். கிராமத்தார் எடுக்கக்கூடிய ஸ்திதியிலிருந்தால் கவர்ன்மெண்டு சொல்வதற்கு முன்னமே எடுத்திருப்பார்கள். அவர்களாகவே, செய்யாததற்கு அவர்கள் ஏழ்மையே காரணம். ஆகையினுல் கவர்ன்மெண்டாரே இந்த அவசியமான வேலேயைச் செய்யவேண்டும்.

" தவிர என்னுடைய ஜில்லாவில் டோல்கேட்டுகள் கள்ளுக்கடைப் போல் அநேகமிருக்கின்றன. சில இடங்களில் இருபத்தைந்து மைல் தூரத்திற்குள்ளேயே இரண்டு டோல்கேட்டுக்களுக்குப் பகுதி கட்டவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. அதுமிவுல்லாமல் இரண்டு, மூன்று மைல் தூரத்திற்குள் ஒரு

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கிளை டோல்கேட் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. சில மாதங்களுக்கு முன்கூட டோல் கேட் ஏலம்விட்ட பிறகு ஒரு கிளை டோல்கேட்டை எங்கள் ஜில்லா போர்டு தலைவர், ஏற்படுத்தி இருக்கிறார். இந்த கிளை டோல்கேட்டுகளால் முக்கியமாய் ஏழை வியவசாயிகளுக்கே அசௌகர்யம் ஏற்படுகிறது. சீக்கிரத்தில் சட்டசபை விவாதத்திற்கு வரும் ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபன சீர்திருத்த மசோதாவில் டோல்கேட்டுகளை அடியோடு எடுத்து விட ஏற்பாடு செய்ய வேண்டுமென்பது எனது அபிப்பிராயம்.

"கடைசியாக நான் ஒரு விஷயத்தைப்பற்றி சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். ஏழை ஜனங்கள் அநேகர் கோர்ட்டுக்கு போகிரவர்களாய் இருக்கிறார்கள். கோர்ட்டுகளில் வியாஜ்ஜியங்கள் முடிவதற்கு மிகுந்த காலம் செல்வதுடன் ஏராளமான செலவு ஏற்படுகிறது. வியவசாயிகள் கடன் படுவதற்கு காரணம் வரிச்சுமையும் வியாஜ்ஜியச் சிலவுமே. கவர்ன்மெண்டு வழக்குகள் தாமதமில்லாமல் முடிவதற்கு ஏற்பாடு செய்வதுடன் ஸ்டாம்பு சட்டத்தையும் கோர்ட்டு பீஸ் சட்டத்தையும் திருத்தி முன்னிருந்த நிலைக்குக் கொண்டு வரவேண்டும். ஏழை குடியானவர்களின் பிழைப்பையும், மானம், குலம், கல்வி, வன்மை, அறிவுடைமை இவைகளைப் போக்கும் குடியை ஒழிக்கும் முறையை அனுசரிக்கவேண்டும். கவர்ன்மெண்டார் வரும்படியைக் கவனிக்காமல் ஜனங்களுக்கு நன்மையளிப்பதற்கு இக்குடியை அறவே ஒழிக்கவேணுமாய்க் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்."

*Mr. L. K. Tulasiram :—"Mr. President, Sir, I do not want to speak on any subject which has been touched upon by any hon. Member of this House. I would make it a point to keep my word and will only confine my remarks to the state of the industrial education in this country ('Hear, hear'). I have studied the subject for the last 35 years and I now find that the Government have not done anything for industrial education. I challenge the Government in the Transferred Half on whose shoulders this portfolio has been thrown to show what they have done for improving the industrial education. Sir, 10·81 lakhs has been budgeted for the subject of industrial education in this country. Now there are five schools in the Presidency, and the Madras Trades School, the Madras Leather Institute, the Textile Institute and the School of Arts and Crafts are all centred as specimens, as museum specimens in this metropolis. There are students studying in them, but how many? I think about half a dozen, or not more than that in the Textile school which consumes nearly Rs. 40,000. Take the Leather Trades School or any other school. It is only with a view to satisfy the outsiders that these exhibitions are made. The Government have put up a textile school in a place where there are no handlooms. There are more than 50,000 handlooms in the Aruppukkottai taluk and a large number of handlooms in Conjeeveram. The North Arcot district is the district which has got the largest number of handlooms. All these districts are not cared for. They have got peripatetic parties. What do these peripatetic weaving parties do? They say that they are going to demonstrate the appliances and teach fly-shuttle loom and all that. What is the position of the handloom weaver in this Presidency? They are going about to do the harvesting work but they cut their hands because they do not know how to harvest the crops. They come and show me their hands. This is the fate, Sir, of the industrial classes after the introduction of the British Rule in this country and after the competition of Manchester was thrust on us. We have thus been reduced to an actual 4-45 p.m.

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state of slavery. There has been a very costly roving Commission which has been going in this country under the presidency of Sir Thomas Holland. What reforms have they introduced to improve the state of the industries of this country? During the time of His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock, we wanted a technical dye-house and a place in which to teach improved methods of dyeing. They sent for all the machinery, but whom did they send to teach us? Instead of teaching Turkey Red dyeing, under the regime of Sir Alfred Chatterton, they sent a gentleman who taught us not red-dyeing, but taught us to dye aniline black. The gentleman wanted to learn everything about red-dyeing from Madura and he did not stretch his little finger to teach Madura anything, but he took the trouble of learning from the weavers of Madura their art with a view to introduce it in Manchester. Out of the 10·81 lakhs provided in the Budget for industrial education, 4·8 lakhs would be consumed by the direction charges, and the Madras Trades School, the Madras Textile Institute, etc., will take away 2·5 lakhs. Only a paltry sum of Rs. 45,600 has been provided for industrial scholarships. Sir, for a population of 425 lakhs of people engaged in industries, who come to about 8 per cent of the total population, you have provided only Rs. 45,600. Even the sum that is spent on the direction charges for the District Engineering Schools, etc., are four or five times greater than that. If you take the average that is spent on every head of the population, it is an woeful tale to tell. It shows that the average is three pies per head for industrial education. But on the other hand, you are spending 29·45 lakhs for jails and convict settlements. You are spending so much on jails, you are spending money on completing the jail at Saidapet, you are spending money over the Alipore jail and for providing water-supply in all jails. No doubt you want to consolidate all your strength, because you expect that there will be a revolution and therefore you provide jails for the people. In view of the way in which you are ruling the country, the people are thinking of flying away from this country to other countries in order to escape the trammels of your tyranny. Sir, excuse me for the strong language I use, but I use it because I consider that all these sessions where we are discussing this Budget are sessions where the thermometer—you know there is a thermometer for measuring the loyalty of the people—shows that the loyalty of the people has gone very low and that the loyalty of the people will go lower still if you do not care to understand the real feelings of the people of the country. Of course, you will say that there are people receiving fat salaries who will provide for this and that. But really, are you going to help the industrial classes? When famine breaks out, the hon. Member will say: 'Famine means mere starvation.' Unless the ribs and the bones of the people are seen and can be counted out, he won't say that famine conditions are prevailing in the country. Is that the definition of famine, Sir? I said that the industrial portion of the people with whom I am moving in intimate contact, are feeling this keenly, and I know their feelings well. Unless you take this opportunity and improve their lot by educating them and taking them into your confidence, not that there will be non-co-operation in the country, but there will be direct action in the country, there will be more communists in the country, the country will produce not one Saklatwala, but more before the Soviet Government is established in this country. With these few words, Sir, I entrust to your care the feelings of the country expressed to me. I am not a Bolshevist, I am not a Communist, I have been one of the most loyal

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friends of the Government, and I request you, Sir, from the bottom of my heart, at least to do something for elevating the position of the industrial classes and earn their lasting gratitude."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Although 41 hon. Members have taken part in these discussions till now, there still remain many Members who are anxious to take part in the same; so I propose, with the consent of the Leaders of the House and of the Opposition, not to take up any questions to-morrow, but to devote the whole of to-morrow for these discussions. As already intimated, the afternoon of to-morrow will be allotted to hon. Members of the Treasury Bench for their replies."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 o'clock the next day.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, the 5th March 1927.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. President (the hon. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU Garu) in the chair.

PRESENT:

Ramaswami Ayyar, K.C.I.E., The hon. Sir C. P.
Marjoribanks, C.S.I., C.I.E., The hon. Mr. N. E.
Usman Sahib Bahadur, The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad.
Moir, C.S.I., C.I.E., The hon. Mr. T. E.
Subbarayan, The hon. Dr. P.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, The hon. Mr. A.
Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N.
Abdul Hye Sahib Bahadur, K.
Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur S. K.
Adinarayana Chettiyar, Mr. T.
Anjaneyulu, Mr. P.
Appavu Chettiyar, Mr. C. D.
Ari Gowder, Mr. H. B.
Arpudaswami Udayar, Mr. S.
Basheer Ahmad Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.
Bazl-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur, C.I.E., C.B.E., Khan Bahadur Muhammad.
Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu, Mr. P.
Bheemayya, Mr. J.
Biswanath Das Mahasayo, Sriman.
Boag, Mr. G. T.
Chidambaranatha Mudaliyar, Mr. T. K.
Cotterell, C.I.E., Mr. C. B.
Dorai Raja, Mr. S. N.
Ellappa Chettiyar, Rao Sahib S.
Gangadhara Siva, Mr. M. V.
Gopala Menon, Mr. C.
Govindaraja Mudaliyar, Mr. C. S.
Guruswami, Rao Sahib L. C.
Hall, O.B.E., Mr. J. F.
Hamid Khan Sahib Bahadur, Abdul.
Hampayya, Rai Sahib M.
Harisarvottama Rao, Mr. G.
Hearson, Mr. H. F. P.
John, Mr. V. Ch.
Kaleswara Rao, Mr. A.
Karant, Mr. K. R.
Khadir Mohidin Sahib Bahadur, Muhammad.
Koti Reddi, Mr. K.
Krishnan, Mr. K.
Krishnan Nayar, Diwan Bahadur M.
Krishnaswami Nayakar, Mr. K. V.
Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri.
Kumaraswami Reddiyar, Diwan Bahadur S.
Kuppuswami, Mr. J.
MacDougall, *Kt.* Sir Alexander.
Madhavan Nayar, Mr. K.
Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur.
Mallayya, Dr. B. S.
Manikkavelu Nayakar, Mr. M. A.
Marudavanam Pillai, Mr. C.
Meera Ravuttar Bahadur, K. P. V. S. Muhammad.
Muniswami Nayudu, Rao Bahadur B.
Muniswami Pillai, Mr. V. I.
Muppil Nayar of Kavalappara, Mr.
Muttayya Mudaliyar, Mr. S.
Muthulakshmi Reddi, Dr. (Mrs.)
Muthuranga Mudaliyar, Mr. C. N.
Nagan Gowda, Mr. R.
Nanjappa Bahadur, M.V.O., Subadar-Major S. A.
Narayana Raju, Mr. D.
Narayanan Chettiyar, Mr. Al. Ar.
Narayanan Nambudripad, Rao Bahadur O. M.
Narayanaswami Pillai, Mr. T. M.
Obi Reddi, Mr. C.
Pandrang Rao, Mr. V.
Parasurama Rao Pantulu, Mr. A.
Parthasarathi Ayyangar, Mr. C. R.
Patro, *Kt.*, Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.
Premayya, Mr. G. R.
Raja of Panagal, K.C.I.E.
Rajan, Mr. P. T.
Ramachandra Padayachi, Mr. K.
Ramachandra Reddi, Mr. B.
Ramanath Goenka, Mr.
Ramasomayajulu, Mr. C.
Ratnasabapathi Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur C. S.
Sahajanandam, Swami A. S.
Saldanha, Mr. J. A.
Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, Mr.
Sarabha Reddi, Mr. K.
Satyamurti, Mr. S.
Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Sitarama Reddi, Rao Bahadur K.
Siva Raj, Mr. N.
Slater, C.I.E., Mr. S. H.
Smith, Mr. J. Mackenzie.
Soundara Pandia Nadar, Mr. W. P. A.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. R.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. T. C.
Srinivasan, Rao Sahib R.
Subrahmanya Moopanar, Mr. S.
Subrahmanya Pillai, Mr. Chavadi K.
Swami, Mr. K. V. R.
Syed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur, Nattam Dubash Kadir Sahib.
Thomas, Mr. Daniel.

PRESENT—*cont.*

Tireman, C.I.E., Mr. H.
Tulasiram, Mr. L. K.
Uppi Sahib Bahadur, K.
Vanavudaiya Goundar, Mr. S. V.
Venkataramana Ayyangar, Mr. C. V.
Venkatarangam Nayudu, Mr. C.
Venkataratnam, Mr. B.
Venkiah, Mr. S.
Wood, Mr. C. E.
Zamindar of Gollapalli.
Zamindar of Kallikota.
Zamindar of Mirzapuram.
Zamindar of Seithur.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1927–28—*cont.*

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Before we proceed to the discussion on the Budget, I wish to inform the House that I have limited the time for each Speaker to eight minutes except the two Leaders of the Opposition parties."

*Khan Bahadur S. K. ABDUL RAZACK SAHIB Bahadur :—"Mr. President, Sir, let me first congratulate the hon. the Finance Member on the budget that he has presented to us. It is a matter for gratification that this year when a new set of members of this Council have come into office we have the good fortune that the Imperial impost is likely to be completely remitted, giving us some scope to take up the pending schemes for the amelioration of the conditions of this Presidency. In the allocation of the surplus now available, we trust that the Madras Government will take good care to spend the money on non-recurring items of permanent utility—I mean water-supply, medical relief and the like. There are many places where the introduction of water-supply has materially reduced if not wiped out all water-borne diseases like cholera. The value of the lives thus saved cannot be calculated in terms of rupees, annas and pies. And I would strongly urge that instead of insisting on a half-and-half contribution in every case and permanently crippling the resources of the municipal councils and our local boards or postponing the introduction of such schemes, the Government may utilize the windfall to pay three-fourths if not the entire cost of water-supply schemes. Then again the scheme of rural dispensaries inaugurated by the Raja of Panagal has been the source of immense good to the rural population. If that scheme could be furthered and supplemented by every dispensary in a municipal area being converted into a hospital so that ordinary ailments may be treated in the villages and complicated cases and major operations may be attended to in municipal areas good and lasting benefit would be conferred on the people of this country. It is a known fact that many of the local bodies have not enough funds to run their services efficiently and to the standard expected of them in these modern days. It is therefore necessary that whenever there is an unexpected and unusual surplus or windfall, it should be utilized so as to benefit the largest number of people and should cater to the primary needs of man, that is water to drink and medicine to ward off diseases. If therefore this remission is utilized to install some more water-supply schemes and to open additional dispensaries in villages and to raise the status of dispensaries in municipal areas, we would be able to give a good account of the money entrusted to us. Sir, the appalling figures of infant mortality go to show that more care is needed in the case of expectant mothers and women in labour. If in each village school a midwife can be employed as a teacher, her services will be available to the local women in a contingency, and the way would be paved for the introduction of a set of trained and qualified midwives throughout the length and breadth of this Presidency. The pay of these midwives can be met by local bodies with

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some grant or subsidy from Government But the initial cost of training the large number of women required has necessarily to be found by the Government. The fossil of a barber midwife will completely go, a clean and healthy method of midwifery will be available for the women of this land and the increasing mortality of infants effectively reduced. I request that the Government will consider all these points over and devise methods for the utilization of the available money on schemes which will really be useful to the largest number of people.

"One word more, Sir. My community has not, I am sorry to say, received that adequate encouragement and representation in the several public services which it deserves. I request the Government will give some attention to this question. There is at present no Collector of a district who is a Muhammadan, not one of the Judges of the High Court is a Muhammadan, of the several Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Under Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries to Government or in the Board of Revenue, not a single officer is a Muslim."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" What about Mr. Bazl-ul-lah ?"

Khan Bahadur S. K. ABDUL RAZACK SAHIB Bahadur :—"He is not a Collector ; he is in the Transferred department. The number of Muslims in the gazetted ranks can be counted on one's fingers. This state of affairs needs an early remedy and until the legitimate claims of all communities are satisfied, there cannot be harmony and good will, the necessary requisite of a proper administration."

* Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, within the short time that I am allowed, I think I cannot do justice to the discussion before us ; but still I will try to say a few words. In the first place, the first and foremost matter that I would bring before the House is the imposition of punitive police for the last one year in some villages of the Gooty taluk. It seems to be practically unnecessary under the conditions existing at present ; because, after the report of Mr. Courtenay on this question, there was, it is true, some apprehension that there would be a disturbance of peace on account of differences between two gentlemen of the locality, Mr. Chinnanarappa Reddi and Mr. Thimma Reddi. Now, Sir, the former has practically left the place and settled down in Madras and where, Sir, I ask, is the further necessity of anticipating any breach of peace? It is high time, therefore, that the hon. the Law Member should see his way to remove this unnecessary and unjust impost, especially when there is so much of famine conditions prevailing in that part of the country. I am also told, Sir, that these two gentlemen have become reconciled and have shown to the satisfaction of the officers concerned that there is absolutely no difference between them and that serves as an additional reason why the punitive police should immediately be moved from the place. I need not here dwell so much on the principle on which punitive police must be imposed. But I should say that if the regular police are so very effiminate as not to maintain the peace of the locality, then it becomes necessary that punitive measures of this sort must be resorted to. Are we to understand now that the police force is so demoralized in that portion of the country that it is not able to grapple with the situations, or are we to understand that they are capable of meeting with the situation ? If you once grant that they are not capable, it is better that they are removed from the

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force, for it is a small place where preventive action could be taken sufficiently early and knowing the feelings between the two parties all this trouble could have been conveniently avoided. So much, Sir, for the hon. the Law Member to ponder over and see his way for an early abolition of this unjust measure at no distant date; for he will thereby earn the thanks of the people of the locality. I am told that the collections for the current year are going on. If the hon. Member is pleased to agree with me, he will certainly see that the collections are not levied.

"One other subject I wish to advert to. The following may appear to hon. Members to be a novel suggestion, but still I want to venture it.

11-15 a.m. "Sir, there are three kinds of overseers working in one and the same area, viz, the local fund overseer, the Department of Public Works overseer and the minor irrigation overseer. The same area has to be supervised by these three officers. I think it becomes unnecessary that three officers should be under the control of three different departments separately as that causes much inconvenience. Each overseer has not enough of work, but at the same time he has to travel over a larger area and at the same time cannot devote the necessary attention. When he goes to any areas where there are no facilities of transport, much time is taken up in travelling itself; and further there is another danger by giving him a larger area. He has to maintain a conveyance which means a large drain upon his purse, and that again means that he must resort to objectionable means of maintaining it. To save all this trouble I would suggest that all these three officers may be placed under the control of local bodies. Minor irrigation is purely for the benefit of the people and it is really in the interest of the people to have the control over minor irrigation. I do not speak of the big schemes like the Mettur project or any such thing which may be reserved for the superior officers of the Government Department. So far as these officers I have mentioned above are concerned, there is absolutely no fear, and they can safely be placed under the control of the local bodies. I would suggest that this is just the time when the authorities concerned could take up this suggestion in right earnest and see that all these three officers are placed under the control of one and the same authority, I mean the local bodies.

"Then, I have to say one thing so far as the Budget itself is directly concerned. The hon. Member for Finance is no doubt very liberal and lavish so far as the Government servants are concerned. I advisedly call them Government servants, and I do not call them public servants because they are not amenable to the public. He is no doubt very free in providing them with quarters, allowances and everything that is necessary."

*Subadar-Major S. A. Nanjappa Bahadur:—"Mr. President, Sir, I desire to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member for so lucidly presenting the Budget as to enable even a military man like myself easily to follow it. It is a great satisfaction that there would be a decent surplus. I belong to Salem. Time and again so many Members have urged its claims on the floor of this hon. House for greater irrigation facilities. I also urged on a former occasion the necessity for some provision for Salem to partake in the benefits of the Mettur project. There is a cry in Salem that the Government have taken a large area of land in the district promising the people that they would be given irrigation facilities, but to their utter disappointment they have found, fortunately not too late, that they are not to get even an inch of earth within that blessed zone from the project.

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The people of my district are ready to pay the extra assessment that may be levied by the Government. I hope the hon. the Law Member will remember Salem in that connexion and earn the gratitude of its people.

"The sanitary condition of Salem requires much attention. During the four years of my residence at Salem after I retired, I had to leave the place twice temporarily owing to plague. In the distribution of funds for improving public health and sanitation, Salem deserves and should receive a large and sympathetic attention. I hope the hon. the Minister for Public Health will pay an early visit to Salem when I hope he will himself see the condition of the place and feel the necessity for sustained effort to improve its sanitation. The time allowed to me being very limited, I stop my speech so soon."

* Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, hon. Member after Member has congratulated the hon. the Finance Member. Perhaps, that is the formality of the day. But I strove hard, Sir, to at least follow the formula of congratulating the hon. the Finance Member on his voluminous Budget which has been presented to us. But I am sorry I could not find any good reason to congratulate him, for I do not see anything that is really going to benefit the country at large. Now, Sir, we are in the Reform days. What the Reforms have done and how they have benefited us are questions that are to be tackled and to be seriously considered. The Reforms have landed us only in grand Council halls like this, given us Indian Executive Councillors, Members on the Treasury Benches, Ministers, Secretaries, Under Secretaries and so forth involving very great expenditure amounting to lakhs and crores taken out of the poor rate-payers' money. But all the same if the Reforms could help the villager at the distant end, that would be some consolation and solace. But there seems to have been nothing of the sort at all for the last six years. Sir, there is what is called local self-government under this administration. It is a misnomer. It may rather be called the foreign-non-self-government. It is local self-government only in name. I as a member of the Council of the Madras Corporation have known instances after instances when this local self-government institution was treated like a school boy by this Government. The Act as it is, Sir, has got many imperfections and defects, and the Reformed Council has not thought it fit to amend the Act, as it is their imperative duty to do. The Commissioner is thrust on the Corporation by the Government though his salary after all is paid by the Corporation, out of the money collected from the coffers of the rate-payers. But he is not solely responsible to the Corporation. Is this self-government, Sir, I ask? He is an autocrat of autocrats and he is only responsible for the Secretary to Government and Under Secretary with whom he can correspond by means of demi-officials and un-officials and what not. Sir, that is our position so far as local self-government is concerned. The Government have tied to neck of the Corporation big mill stones in the shape of the drainage and Mambalam schemes and so forth, but when funds are asked for, they evince a spirit of retaliation and behave like school children. For instance, Sir, in the great city of Dublin, how is it the tramways there, though owned by a rich man, Martin Murphy yet he has no representation on the Corporation of that city such as what we have called as instituted councillors and nominated councillors. These instituted councillors and nominated councillors come in because they want to be represented on the

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Corporation. It is said that it is foreign capital which is invested in Madras and as such their interests have got to be safeguarded. Where is the foreign capital? Have they brought it from England, or from Ireland or from Wales? It is all Indian capital. From the Indian banks and the Imperial Bank they get their over-drafts. Spencer & Co. can get an over-draft to the extent of even 90 lakhs. Which Indian company can get any amount as over-draft, Sir? This is the farce of the instituted councillors. And then there is the farce of the nominated councillors. The nomination is of defeated candidates. They can come in through any door. If they can only dance attendance at the doors of Government officers, if they are only experts in crow-catching and dancing to the tunes and according to the whims of the Members in charge, they can get nominations. That is the nomination, Sir. Instituted councillors are sent in there simply to come and vote against a resolution that may be brought forward by the nationalist party. So also the Justice party men who are nominated by the hon. Ministers. Is this local self-government, Sir?

"Further, there are several other things. Take, for instance, the Cooum affair, a thing that is hanging like a Damocles' sword on the health of the people of the city. What have the Government done for it? They say that unless the Corporation is prepared to finance they are not going to take it up. Unless the Cooum question is tackled by the Government, I warn the Government that they would be committing a serious mistake. If that is not tackled—and it can only be tackled by making it a navigable river—the health of the people can never be improved. But the Government are going on with their Pykhara and pythyakara schemes and Mettur project, ignoring the metropolis, the chief metropolis, the capital of the whole Presidency. Lakhs and lakhs are being doled away for வைத்தியகார schemes, but what about the Cooum scheme, Sir, that has been facing you for the past so many years? They have been going on considering it for the last ten years and nothing has come out of it.

"That is the condition of local self-government.

"Then, what is the matter in the case of the High Court, Sir? You are going on increasing the Judges and arrears are also going on increasing side by side. That is the state of affairs and there is the official referee, and why he is there we do not know. That means the litigants pay not only the stamp duty and court-fees already enhanced by 5 per cent, but again they have got to pay to the official referee to whom the matter is referred and who is recruited from the bar or from some other place. Those litigants are hard pressed like anything. There is the official assignee who goes on waxing fat on his commission, he not being appointed on any salary. There is the prosecuting inspector who can sell his office. Sale of offices, sale of nominations and what not. If I say some thing more on it it will not be good."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Merely in order to understand the argument of my hon. Friend, I should like his statement repeated about prosecuting inspectors and sale of offices. I did not quite follow what the hon. Member had said."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—"The Crown Prosecutor, Mr. Adam, when he took leave, himself appointed one Mr. Ayyangar to act in his place and there was some arrangement entered into between them, but not appointed by the Government. That is what I may. . . ."

(At this stage the gong was sounded.)

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* Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi:—" Mr. President, Sir, several of the hon. Members of the House showered congratulations on the hon. the Finance Member, but I am sorry I have to say that I am not so fortunate as to share in their pleasure at congratulating him. There is absolutely nothing in the budget for which I can congratulate the hon. Member for Finance. For several years past, whenever the question of irrigation of the Ceded districts came under consideration of this House, several hon. Members have given expression to their sympathy. And I naturally thought that the cumulative effect of all those expressions of sympathy would have a wholesome influence upon the Government and that sympathy would be seen in the budget figures. But, unfortunately, the budget figures prove to us that all these expressions have fallen flat upon the ears of the Government. There has recently been an Irrigation Committee for the Ceded districts which was appointed by the Government and that committee was asked to submit proposals for the improvement of irrigation and water-supply in the Ceded districts. The Committee was not given all the facilities which it ought to have been given. It was not given the time which ought to have been given. But in spite of all these disabilities, it finished its labours and submitted recommendations for some schemes.

" But naturally I thought that as the recommendation came from a body created by the Government, Government would sympathize with the recommendations and do something. But the budget has proved that even the recommendations of the Irrigation Committee has had absolutely no effect upon the Government. Now, on many occasions the hon. the Law Member himself said, and I remember well these things, 'Well I do know the Ceded districts. I know also there is much scope for the improvement of the irrigation facilities in the Ceded districts. I do sympathize with the people. I do have a great mind to do something for the people but unfortunately owing to the absence of an irrigation law I am unable to do anything.' These words coming from such a high dignitary created a cheering hope in the hearts of the people. But unfortunately the budget has proved that our hopes are not at all to be realized. The budget has disclosed the almost indomitable love the hon. the Law Member has for the demon, I may say the big-bellied devil, the Mettur project. If I remember right he even said that he would be able to convert the Ceded districts into a veritable smiling garden and that the day will soon come when there will be a spectacle of extensive green crops in the place of the arable lands that we now have. We waited to see whether he intends to do what he said he would try to do. Somehow or other we have now the Mettur project which has possessed him or is possessing him like a devil. It has blinded him to the requirements of the other districts and it has made him callous to the suffering of the less fortunate districts, especially the Ceded districts. Whatever that may be it is a slur on this House itself and the whole world will brand the Council incompetent if such injustices should be allowed to be perpetrated. Thousands and thousands of people in the Ceded districts are simply raising a hue and cry and are actually dying for want of drinking water and I do not see why the Government should think of the Mettur project which has the power of devouring all the money that can be raised for the purpose of improving irrigation. There is another thing to which I would invite the attention of the House and which finds a place in the budget of the hon. the Finance Member. He says, 'it is comforting to

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think that we are not compelled to reduce programme of works which provides employment to the country. On the contrary under irrigation works, under minor irrigation works and civil works our budget for 1927--28 provides for an additional expenditure of 41 lakhs.' This in my opinion is a misrepresentation. Well, Sir, you know what the Ceded districts are and particularly what the Kurnool district is and what the conditions prevailing now are. You know that the district is experiencing famine and especially now on account of the failure of the monsoons the people's difficulties are very very miserable. They are leading very miserable lives and thousands of people are migrating to the other districts in search of food and labour. Well in this poor district a small project called Theppayagraham project was investigated and reported upon. The Government approved of the scheme proposed and sanctioned it. After forty to fifty thousand rupees had been spent all on a sudden the project has been given up. For what reason, God only knows and next to Him Government only knows. There was another project called Thokapally project similarly proposed, reported upon and similarly sanctioned and an amount of nearly two lakhs was spent on it and it was suddenly given up and God knows what the reason would be. If I should be asked to offer the reason for it all that I can say that it is the Mettur project that stands in the way of these projects. And now the hon. the Finance Member says under irrigation works, under minor irrigation works and civil works the budget provides an additional expenditure of 41 lakhs. I do not know how. There are several small tanks spread throughout the district constructed in pre-British days by experts. They have fallen into ruins. If the restoration of these minor tanks all over the district is taken up it would give labour to the people and stop the recurring famines. But the Government thinks only of the Mettur project. Well, I just wish to take this opportunity of referring to a small tank in Cumbum built by the Queen of Krishna Devaraya called Varadarajamma about 400 years ago and which has an ayacut of 7,000 acres. It yields an annual income in normal years of about a lakh of rupees. Till thirty years ago no man knew it drying up except in twenty or thirty years."

* Mr. N. SIVA RAJ :—" Mr. President, Sir, I hesitate to take part in this general discussion on the budget and I do not want to let myself simply go as my hon. Friend Mr. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu did. (Cries of 'Order, order.') I confess I have not been able to unravel mysteries of the budget or understand all the intricacies thereof and even if I have done so I am unable to add anything new to what has already been said by the various speakers of the House, some marked by conspicuous ability and rich experience. But I do want to take this opportunity of making one or two observations on the budget from the point of view of the depressed classes. Before doing so, I wish to join and I do join in the chorus of tribute that was paid to the hon. the Finance Minister. (A voice: He is not yet a Minister.) I mean the hon the Finance Member on the presentation of the budget which as Mr. Wood observed is a very business-like one. I do also want to congratulate him on the bright prospect he has of getting the total remission of the provincial contribution. Now, Sir, adverting to the subject of the budget, one thing that must strike even a casual reader of the budget estimates is the disparity that exists between the allotment for the depressed classes and that for other items. I thought this would have attracted the attention of the previous speakers and probably it did. None of them referred

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to it. It is, I hope, due to the fact that, without being indifferent to the lot of the depressed classes, they left it to be referred to by the depressed class members themselves. Now, the inadequacy of the allotment for the depressed classes is the point that I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. the Finance Member. I never thought, Sir, that the hon. the Finance Member who was the first protector of the depressed classes would have neglected the interests of the depressed classes. Considering the importance and the urgency of the problem of the depressed classes and considering also the fact that there is such a unanimous opinion as to the upliftment of the depressed classes, it is really strange that the hon. the Finance Member should not have taken advantage of the spirit of the times to make a better provision for the depressed classes. I am quite sure that every hon. Member of this House, whether official or non-official, whether Swarajist or no-changer, whether Brahman or non-Brahman, is alive to the importance and the urgency of this problem. This disparity becomes all the more grave when you compare it with one particular item which has never failed to catch the eye of any speaker, viz., the Cauvery-Mettur project. In this connexion, I want to say that if the hon. the Law Member were an Adi-Dravida or what is more practicable an Adi-Dravida were the Law Member endowed with the capacity to, he would bring round the Finance Member to his point of view we would find that allotment under the miscellaneous heads swelling. (Hear, hear.) From that point of view, I would certainly say that we are sadly disappointed at this budget, and that it looks as if the Government in presenting this budget is merely performing its annual ceremony with its high priest, the Finance Member, who goes through the necessary formalities, most of which have no meaning or significance or value to us. I am not making these observations to attack the Government. It is only to bring to the notice of the Government that, having regard to the importance and urgency of the matter and having regard also to the fact that it covers a fairly great proportion of the population of this Presidency, the hon. the Finance Member ought to have made a better provision. In this connexion, I wish to refer to a term that was used by a friend of mine in one of those friendly conversations outside the walls of the House. He said that 'you depressed class members are grumblers.' Grumblers we are, and grumblers we must be in the present state of society. I value that word 'grumbler.' It really connotes the present stage in our political development. It is also useful in this respect that it really provides a clue to the classification of the people that come in to share all the revenues of the Government. As long as there are grabbers, there must be grumblers. I think one has got to be a grumbler before he becomes a grabber. I leave alone the class of people whom I shall call 'gapers' who say they have nothing to do with the Government. The other aspect is that the various allotments that have been made may be said to have been made for the improvement of the condition of the masses. To one who does not know the social conditions of the country, it will look quite alright. He will say that this is a budget which is meant for and which has given really good provision for the improvement of the condition of the masses. We all know that in the actual working the departments are being worked by the caste Hindus for their benefit. We know that in practice benefits are not really conferred upon the depressed classes. I do not think hon. Members will deny that in the natural working of the departments the depressed classes benefit the least except here and there where the officers are individually interested in the welfare of the depressed

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classes. I want specially to appeal to the hon. the Chief Minister to provide for special schools and for a residential high school, especially in the city of Madras. You know how very difficult it is to get admission in the various schools and colleges, if not on the ground of untouchability at least certainly, on the ground of inefficiency."

Mr. B. Venkataratnam then made a speech in Telugu.

11-45 a.m. * Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" Sir, two hon. Members on the Government Benches have been peculiarly fortunate in getting praises after praises on this budget—I mean the hon. the Finance Member and the hon. the Law Member. Dealing with the first hon. Gentleman, I wish to say that there is nothing for which we on this side of the House have to be grateful to him for this budget. I can only see two things in the budget, and these are, lakhs and crores of rupees allotted for buildings and secondly, lakhs and crores on high salaries. I wish the hon. Members of this Government would go and see the ruins in Delhi. If they do that, they would not hug to the idea of spending lakhs and crores on big buildings.

" So far as salaries are concerned, we have on the one hand very high salaries, and on the other, hundreds and thousands of Government servants starving on very low, inadequate pay. I wish the hon. Members of Government would try to live on Rs. 35 or Rs. 50 a month and then talk about the revising of the salaries of the low-paid subordinates. I am told, Sir, that on a representation of the non-gazetted officers, the Government have said that they had raised their salaries only recently, that the prices have now gone down and therefore they must thank themselves if the salaries are not now cut down. I wish the hon. Gentlemen on the other side who draw thousands after thousands every month would try to live on Rs. 30 or Rs. 40 a month and then think of cutting down the salaries of those people who get barely enough for their maintenance. I will say that the only consequence of this has been that there is a great deal of corruption in the departments of every branch of this Government. I have no hesitation in saying it. I concede that every form of Government, bureaucratic or other, should be corrupt to some extent because every human institution is imperfect. But nowhere does corruption exist so much as in a bureaucratic system of Government, and that is my reason why this form of Government should go.

" Secondly, coming to the hon. the Law Member, we are to congratulate him, it has been said, for the crores of rupees which have been allotted for the Mettur project and the Pykara scheme and so on. To me, Sir, every pie spent on these big projects is so much unwisely wasted at this time of the day for the reason that we have not the real power to control the purchase of stores made outside India. If crores of rupees are now spent, I have no doubt that they go mostly to benefit the British capitalists. Secondly, a good deal goes to the British experts for their salaries in connexion with these projects, and again, another big sum for the mamul of the departments concerned. As long as we have no real power to control these large projects involving as they do crores of rupees, it is very much better not to embark on them just at present.

" Then, I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. the Law Member a few points about the mufassal courts in this Presidency because I am a lawyer myself and I know where the shoe pinches. I do not wish to deal with the

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Honourable the High Court because I do not know much about it. But about the mufassal courts, I have no hesitation in saying that we are not having nowadays British justice but British disposals. Once in three months, the judges have to give returns to the High Court. You may choose the best man in the Bar. But in the unfortunate system obtaining at present in these courts, there is so much congestion of work that even the cleverest man turns a dunce when he becomes a judge. (Laughter) That is my unfortunate experience. There may be exceptions here and there, but that is what it is. There is so much attention paid to disposals that there is no real justice dispensed. If the hon. the Law Member will take it into his mind, I may tell him that there are so frequent postings on the Original side that it is so much inconvenience and expense to the parties in summoning witnesses. Cases which are not at all likely to be reached and cases which are just filed are posted almost every three weeks, because of the system of disposals. I hope some notice of these things will be taken.

"Then, Sir, I wish to offer a few suggestions about the Local Boards Act, which is going to be revised. I wish to point out to the hon the Chief Minister a few points for his consideration in connexion with this matter. I consider that a municipality is too small a unit to be split up. But in the case of local bodies, it is different. We are now having a district board, a taluk board, a union board, the village panchayat, the district educational council and so on. My contention in this respect is that it would make the administration very much more efficacious if you hand over all the educational institutions to the district educational council. Have a separate board for roads, works and other communications. Now, what happens is that if a district board president is careful about roads he is apt to neglect schools, or sanitation. Split it up into two or three bodies. Roads and works for one body. All education, secondary and elementary, to another. Sanitation and Public Health to a third. I think under this system the work will go on very much better. One other evil which is common to the local boards and municipalities is this: the presidents of the local boards and the chairmen of municipalities are veritable Tsars in this province.

"The reason is this. They have got the power of appointing teachers and other servants and also the power of removing them. The powers of these over their staff are too arbitrary. What happens is that at the time of elections these teachers are made to work for them and if they do not, they are either dismissed or shunted on from place to place. A more unfortunate thing which I want to bring to the notice of this House is that in some parts of this side of the country—instances are not rare—lady-teachers are not free from pestering on the part of these autocrats. The remedy I suggest is this. The power of these should be broken up and vested in an executive committee of the board or council concerned. The third thing which I wish to bring to the notice of the House is that the system of nomination should be done away with. (Hear, hear.) On the other hand, I would advocate, if there are communities which have to be represented—I have no doubt there are such communities—you must choose four-fifths or three-fourths by election and leave it to the power of this three-fourths or four-fifths who are representatives of the people to co-opt the others. I know this system obtains in many European countries. There are a great many able people who have a quiet temper but who cannot face an election on account of the vast amount which one has to spend and many other

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things which an election means. For these reasons, I would say that you would enlist the best talent in the country if you adopt this system of co-option.

"Then, so far as the Elementary Education Act is concerned, it seems to contain a provision that the local body concerned must raise a special tax before the Government gives it money. I wish that this provision is taken away; otherwise no municipality or local board will embark on this scheme.

"Lastly, a word to the hon. the Ministers. Of course we have had all sorts of platitudes from Ministers before and we may have them hereafter also. I ask the hon. Ministers whether the salary of Rs. 4,333-5-4 which they have allotted for themselves is not too much, and whether our country can afford this large salary. It is not necessary that because you are in power you must take this large salary and also provide for three council secretaries. I do not think they ought to take anything more than Rs. 2,000 each per month."

*The ZAMINDAR OF KALLIKOTA:—"Mr. President, Sir, I congratulate the hon. the Finance Member along with other hon. Members of this House for having presented a surplus budget. I have every hope that this state of finances will continue in the future years.

"It is very gratifying to note the release of the provincial contribution and I would like to see the whole of this remission spent on nation-building departments. Within the few minutes allotted to me, Sir, I wish to make a few observations regarding the budget.

"To start with, irrigation works have been starved and neglected for the sake of providing hundreds of lakhs to the Cauvery-Mettur project, a project which is going to benefit a district where the scarcity of water is hardly felt. While money is lavishly spent on this project, the dry and famine-stricken districts of the Presidency are almost neglected. It is regrettable to note the miserable sums provided in the budget for irrigation projects in the Ganjam district. The Girisola project, the strengthening of the Rushikulya reservoir, the Vamsadhara project and the Dusi-Nagavali anicut are some of the pressing needs in the Ganjam district and I believe estimates are ready for this. I may be corrected if I am wrong in saying that estimates for all these works have been prepared. I wish to invite the attention of the hon. Member in charge of Irrigation to these most pressing needs of my district. We from Ganjam, Sir, like the people of Tinnevelly, come from the extreme end of the Presidency, about 700 miles away from the Metropolis and we feel our voice is not loud enough to be heard by the Government. The Oriyas of Ganjam are labouring very much under this step-motherly treatment and this is perhaps the chief reason why there is this agitation for the amalgamation of the Oriya speaking tracts with Behar and Orissa, where the Oriyas as a body and under one administration can press for their claims better.

"I would like to know what the present Ministry is going to do regarding the expansion of medical relief in rural areas. The budget provision for medical relief is by no means promising and if the policy of the present Minister is to bring medical relief within the easy reach of the rural population I ask him what has he done towards it. A very good system of giving medical aid to the rural population was started by my hon. Friend the Raja of Panagal, when he was the Chief Minister and it is the duty of

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the present Minister to do his utmost to expand this system. If the hon. the Minister for Public Health wishes to make this system a success he should make provision for at least six rural dispensaries in each taluk board area. The pay of the sub-assistant surgeons working in the rural dispensaries must be increased to Rs. 50 a month. Nobody will in these hard days come for Rs. 33-5-4 a month. In an out-of-the-way village the poor doctor has to establish his name first and get popular before he can command any private practice. The grant for medical equipment of these dispensaries at present is Rs. 350 per annum for each dispensary. The stock of medicines purchased for this sum is perhaps just enough for about six months and for the remaining six months of the year the poor doctor in many cases is compelled to give some coloured water in the name of mixtures to the patients, thereby making the whole system of medical aid unpopular and ineffective. The taluk boards cannot be expected to supplement these grants as their finances do not permit it. It is therefore absolutely necessary for Government to enhance the medical equipment for each dispensary to about Rs. 600 per annum.

" Enough has been said already, Sir, by the hon. Members of this House regarding the most pressing need for supplying drinking water to the millions of the masses of the country who are now at the beginning of the approaching summer feeling the scarcity of water. This seems to be a general cry throughout the Presidency and the Government will be doing the greatest charity if they provide funds generously for the supply of drinking water to the millions of the population. Speaking of my district, Sir, I have to mention that since September last there has been practically no rain except a few showers and to start with the monsoon was a failure. As a result of this the little water that was left in the tanks has been drained to the last drop and everything is barren at present. To add to this misery epidemics like cholera and smallpox are already rampant. The hon. Minister if he wants to do some real and immediate benefit to the people should at once take steps and provide liberal grants for the expansion of water-supply in the rural areas. The local boards so far as I know have fully realized the situation and are doing their best, but the utmost that these boards can do with their present resources will not go far in relieving the distress of the people and I wish therefore to impress on the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government that he should come forward immediately with big grants for the expansion of water-supply in rural areas without imposing any conditions on the local boards.

" Another thing which is perhaps just as important as the supply of drinking water is the construction of village roads. Hundreds of villages in each district have no means of communication of any sort and during the rains it is impossible even to walk to these villages. This is a question that requires the serious and immediate attention of the hon. Minister and I hope that better provision would be made for the construction of village roads.

" According to the present practice grants which are made to local boards have to be spent within the year and anything that has not been spent by the end of the official year lapses to Government. In many cases these grants are made as late as December and the local boards are asked to spend the money before the end of March. They have no estimates ready and have no idea as how to spend the grant to the best benefit of the people, and while they are thinking over these matters and making preparations to start the works the end of March comes and the whole grant lapses. This is a

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very unsatisfactory method of giving out grants. Each local board should be asked to create a Development fund, something like the Elementary Education Fund of taluk boards, and all grants made for particular purposes should be ear-marked and go into this Development fund and spent by the local boards for the ear-marked purpose according to their convenience. The present system of rushing through grants to prevent lapses is most unsatisfactory and in several cases the money is wasted. No grants once made by Government should again lapse to the Government.

"In conclusion I have to mention, Sir, one more need of my district and this is the construction of a bridge over the Rushikulya river on the trunk road of the Ganjam district. A proposal for the construction of the bridge was placed before Government four years ago. Since the Railway are shortly reconstructing their bridge, a proposal was made to make a contribution to the Railway and have a combined railway and road bridge as is the case in certain parts of the Presidency and outside."

* Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED SAHIB :—"Mr. President, Sir, I cannot congratulate the Finance Member on the Budget he has presented to us. Perhaps it is not his fault that the budget has no arresting features and makes no striking appeal to the public by an impressive stride in what are called Nation Building departments. Expenditure on a topheavy administration is in a large measure responsible for the arrest of progress and the humiliating fact has to be recognized that but for the remission of Provincial contribution, a belated justice done to this Presidency, at what cost to the country as a whole we do not yet know, we should have had a disastrous deficit. In a province where the sources of income have come to a standstill, retrenchment should be the watch-word of the administration, but that has always meant in the official code an increase in the higher cadres and the sacrifice of low-paid public servants. For some years the Council had been voting the abolition of the Revenue Board, but the Revenue Board would, like the proverbial cat, appear to have nine lives. Law comes in for a big slice in the expenditure on services; but a great deal of the multiplication of Courts and Judges, especially in the High Court, for clearing off arrears and coping with increased work, can to some extent be minimised by a greater regard to efficiency of persons chosen than to other considerations. Even in the appointment of a Muslim judge to the High Court, I would urge that the Government should be guided by the same consideration of efficiency. While higher services have the due regard paid to their wants, the lower and poorly paid services, especially in the districts, have no chance of their condition being bettered. In spite of the relief given by the removal of the heavy impost, I find no signs of relief to the tax-payer in any direction, nor is the ryot or the trader helped by any reduction in registration and court-fees and stamp duty, though it is admitted by the Finance Member that considerable slackness has come in trade and commerce.

"Now, coming to the Finance Member's doles, there would appear to be no ruling and constructive policy underlying the distribution of grants. Although there is the plea that the Agricultural Commission is now going through the process prior to laying golden eggs which will make the land smile with plenty, still the budget has hardly anything to show the Government's recognition of the need for strengthening agricultural industry and improving the lot of the agriculturists, the bulk of whom are poor and lead a precarious existence. It is the duty of the Government to come to the help

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of the agriculturists in relieving his large indebtedness, by long-term loans at a low or no rate of interest and thus get him out of the hands of the proverbial sowcar. Land mortgage banks have made rapid strides in other countries, and in Ceylon these banks will shortly be funded by Government money till now directed to investments abroad. The policy of investing funds under the control of the Government for purposes of financing of land mortgage banks and such other institutions should be insisted upon and the Government should take the matter seriously. I hope, in view of the recent Bill passed in connexion with land mortgage banks in the Council of State, the Local Government will inaugurate a vigorous policy in favour of land mortgage banks and make the Agricultural Co-operative Societies a real help to the agriculturists in other respects.

"Coming to irrigation, the deserved attention has not been shown to the bettering of minor irrigation works. Minor irrigation is very badly needed in many districts, for instance, in South Arcot and Salem. Many major irrigation schemes await execution and parts of the country, which suffer from defective rainfall and thus fall an easy prey to famine have been left to their fate in preference to those parts not so badly situated. I do not decry the Mettur project. It has advantages which cannot be denied, but this should not stand in the way of projects which are urgently needed in parts which are frequently liable to the visitation of famine. In this connexion I might refer to the question of Indianisation which in spite of all the loud professions of sympathy on the part of the Government has made no adequate advance in any direction. Big schemes like the Mettur project are the best means of advancing Indianisation and affording to Indians the opportunity of acquiring experience and training which they need and the lack of which is often flouted in their face. The Mettur project, apart from its tendency to become a white elephant, is being made also the cosy nest of European officials of the P.W.D., whereas Indians in the P.W.D. possessing the necessary qualifications should naturally predominate with the minimum European element. In this connexion, I should further point out that, in some competent quarters, opinion is held that it is not impossible, as the Law Member is made to understand by the Engineers engaged in the Mettur project, to bring under cultivation additional areas in Salem and Coimbatore under the Mettur project. A mixed committee of local and outside experts should be established for deciding this and other issues, as also the decision reached in connexion with other irrigation projects. The Pykara and Moyar schemes might also be referred to in this connexion. I am glad that the scheme is making a satisfactory progress in spite of opposition from some disappointed quarters and others who have their own axe to grind. This scheme also will afford ample opportunity for the training and employment of Indians in the branch of hydro-electric engineering, while the scheme as a whole by supplying cheap power will give an impetus to indigenous industrial progress.

"Turning now to other industrial activities of the Government, I would first point out that there seems to be no definite industrial policy or programme pursued by the Government. I have gone over the reports of the department of Industries for the last few years and no departmental report is so barren of interest as this."

(Here the hon. Member's time was up and the hon. the President permitted the inclusion in the Official Report of the following undelivered portion of the speech.)

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"This department, which costs more than 10 lakhs, has been only marking time and keeping up appearances with the so-called activities spread over a large field, but with no definite advance or fruitful results. The axe has to be applied in many directions to this department. Overlapping functions of sections, duplication of works as between this and other departments of Government, want of co-ordination and the existence of some ornamental figure-heads are not the only ills of the department. There is an industrial engineering department which has till now made no researches in industrial engineering useful to industries in this Presidency, in spite of the wasteful existence of a workshop which is not fit for undertaking such work and which contents itself with only showing small book profits. This section has been for some time a purely pumping and boring department and even here, save for the spectacular display of some huge boring machines in the Madras Fair and the Cosmopolitan Club grounds, the boring blessing has not been quite within the reach of poor ryots who need it all the more, while the big landlords seem to have easy access to its use. The real work of this section lies in the districts and not in the City of Madras, and an underground water survey in tracts having no irrigation facilities is the first need to which this section should devote more of its attention than to anything else. There is an industrial education section and, save for a few Government institutions, the work of this section is to dole out grants to missionary so-called industrial schools which are in effect small self-sufficient factories run by their own experts and requiring no direction. The textile section of this department is the biggest, apparently the most useful, but the work here does not come up to the standard which we expect, although something is attempted to be done with the usual step-motherly affection of the Government towards the development of cotton handloom industry. There are other sections which require a lot of pruning. What is necessary is concentration on a few main lines and intense specialisation. I welcome survey of cottage industries, but, unless this is done thoroughly by a competent person, it may prove to be a waste of money. I hope the claim of the charka, cording and ginning will not be excluded from this survey.

"Turning to education, I do not propose to tread on the ground already traversed by my hon. friends. Primary education, in spite of big advertisements and loud fanfares to which we had been treated some time ago, has made no progress. Public money has been frittered away, but primary education remains where it was, and the percentage of the educated in the country is at a standstill. The work in this respect of the local boards is not at all appreciable and it has to be closely scrutinised and the system thoroughly overhauled. Primary education in agricultural areas must be made the work of part-time schools and provision must be made for vocational training in the Primary and Secondary school if they are to serve any useful purpose. The grant for primary education is still inadequate although it exceeds by 10 lakhs the grant made in the current official year. Muslim education has not received adequate encouragement in all its stages even after the Montford dispensation. The Muhammadan College, the only one of its kind in the Presidency, remains still under-equipped and provides no attraction for students. Though it is called a first-grade college, yet the accompaniments of a first-grade college are hardly found to be there. The number of Primary and Secondary schools started for Muslim population exclusively is very small and the staff employed therein is very inefficient. It is to be noted that in many of the districts the local boards have not

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bestowed the same amount of care and attention on Muslim education as they seem to have done for non-Muslim education. No adequate facilities have been afforded either in the University or in the several colleges in the Presidency for the development of Oriental languages, such as Urdu, Persian and Arabic. Hundreds of institutions wherein these languages are taught still go unrecognized and without a single pie by way of grant-in-aid. The Educational Department itself does not afford any great attraction to the Muslim graduates for want of good prospects therein and save the solitary exception of a single Muslim Educational Officer or two there has been no increase in the number of Muslims holding posts of higher cadre in the Educational Service all these several years.

"Local Self-Government has really received a set-back in many directions and unless the Acts are liberalized and the institutions are free from Government's leading strings will continue to be the farce that they are. If the Ministers are really serious about their business these local self-governing institutions would become really self-governing and not remain what they are. In this connexion I have to point out that the right of nomination to local bodies has not been properly exercised so far as it relates to minority representation. The Muslim community stands to-day most inadequately represented in many of the districts, especially, South Arcot, Salem and Coimbatore. Though capable and qualified men are available in the Muslim community still the nominees by the Government on the recommendation of the man on the spot happen to be most unsuited and ill-chosen for the place. It is to be hoped that in future at least there will be no further abuse of the power of nomination vested in the Government and that minority community would be well represented in all the local and municipal bodies throughout the Presidency."

* Mr. H. B. Ari Gowder :—" Mr. President, Sir, I add my congratulations to those of others bestowed on the hon. the Finance Member for the innovation introduced by him into the form of the budget. But more than that, I am afraid, I have not got much to say in praise of it. Year after year we have listened to the same old story of the figures with little or no variation in it of improvement save the Mettur and Pykara, to indicate the response of the Government to the demands emanating from a wider awakening of the people. It has been said over and over again, here and elsewhere, that one-third of the total revenues of the province is derived from intemperance and ruin of millions of homes and that it is wrong and altogether wrong. It has been pointed out that the arguments advanced in favour of the continuation of the present excise policy are derived from fallacious grounds and questionable expediency. And yet the attitude of the department has been one of insulting indifference. One asks with despair whether a time will come when this great curse will go. I hope the time will come. We look up to that great power which has the law of compensation in its hands. We begin to loose confidence in the well-meant promises of the sojourners of the Treasury Bench. Hand in hand with this monstrous policy there is the pernicious practice of litigation going on unchecked. I wonder whether it is necessary that justice should be made so ruinously costly as it is and whether truth, the basis of justice, should be made so difficult of attainment. One has got only to look at the dubious position of the magistracy in trying to sift facts from fiction which are presented by the litigants with the full knowledge that their success depends upon the mode

12-15 p.m.

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of presentation. To obviate these unnatural defects the question arises whether it is impossible to revive the indigenous system of panchayats to which are known the fullest details of any case and which have therefore an unrivalled advantage of judging equitably. If this resuscitation should take place it would result in a three-fold advantage to the people. It would save the people their money which is now going into the hands of middlemen, professionals, and would put a check on the progressive demoralization of systematic misrepresentation of litigants in the courts of law. Further, it will help the people to develop in them greater and greater sense of veracity, justice, and mercy.

" But a more constructive programme of work can be carried out in the Agricultural Department. Everybody has said that the peasants contribute the highest revenue to the exchequer and yet their treatment by the Government has been so callous that the appointment of the Royal Commission may be said to be a too respectful commentary on the same. The Government ought to have been pulled up by the ears long ago. Some of the proposals made to it are free grant of land to those who have no lands, legislation rendering the immovable properties of the peasantry inalienable and assistance given to the formation of rural credit banks with share capital raised by the ryots themselves. If these were given effect to there will be created a community of very useful and self-reliant citizens instead of a mass of economic slaves that they are to-day.

" Passing on to education, Sir, it seems to me that the literary part of the system aims unconsciously at a sort of negative goodness and there it fails for obvious reasons. But that is a matter for experts. What I should like to see is, the introduction of longer hours of daily compulsory physical exercise to all children from the bottom to the highest class so that when they come out from their schools and colleges they will be the honoured guests of Nature's bounteous table instead of hanging about the offices scrambling and squabbling for crumbs on communal or other bases. "

* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, on an occasion like this, it is the usual practice to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member on the budget he has presented to us. If on this occasion I congratulate, it ought not to be taken as a mere formality, but a thing which I do feel. There are certain items in the budget for which he and the hon. the Finance Secretary deserve to be congratulated. This is the first occasion on which the provincial contribution is being altogether remitted. I trust during the next year the hon. the Finance Member now in charge of the department will also be able to get the remaining 56 or 59 lakhs released. Another item in the budget which requires congratulation is this: The hon. the Finance Member has made an honest statement that the Government had been negligent in the discharge of their duties as regards drainage and irrigation works. He said 'for past neglect we have to make up hereafter'. I am glad that the Government have recognized their past neglect. I hope that this recognition will urge them on to discharge their duties satisfactorily hereafter. These are the two main reasons for my congratulating the hon. the Finance Member.

" The third reason is that his statement is a very lucid one. He has told us how much from the year 1920 has been spent on the Transferred and the Reserved halves. He has shown us further what amount of increased

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expenditure there has been in the Transferred departments. I would congratulate him more next year if he shows in the next budget how much progress there has been in the educational field. Instead of saying that 10 more lakhs were spent on education, if the Government would tell us what increase there had been in the percentage of literacy, I would be more grateful. If the hon. Member would give us, with regard to agriculture also, statistics showing the increase in production on account of the efforts put forth by the Government, instead of saying that a few lakhs more than what was spent in 1920 were spent in 1927, we would be very grateful.

"Now, Mr. President, I have been in the Council for three years and this is my fourth year. I really doubt the utility of the general discussion we are having here. Every hon. Member in this House is allowed to say what he thinks of the activities of the various departments of the Government, but I am sorry to say that all this leaves no impression on the Government. We go on talking, suggesting various improvements, alterations and so on. But see what will happen next year. It will be just the same as this year. For instance, in the last years I have been urging and my hon. Friends also have been urging the reduction of court-fees. The hon. the Law Member was kind enough to tell us in 1925 I believe, that the matter was receiving his consideration. The matter is yet receiving his consideration. So, I very much doubt the utility of this discussion. I therefore wish that these three days wasted in this general discussion are added to the ten days allotted for voting on demands for grants so that we may more usefully spend the time.

"Now, there are some schemes for which the hon. Law-member may be congratulated. One is the Mettur scheme. So far as I am able to see, no valid criticism has been urged against the progress of that scheme. It has been said that much moneys are being spent on this scheme, and why not other district schemes which are in contemplation have some portion of the money. Certainly, I do not for a moment say that other districts do not deserve consideration, and that other schemes do not deserve investigation. Further I do not for a moment say that all the water in the Mettur scheme should go to Tanjore and Tanjore only. I am perfectly willing that my hon. Friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, may have some water, and Mr. Adinarayana Chettiyar also may have some water. But unfortunately the engineers have said that Coimbatore and Salem cannot have Mettur water on account of engineering difficulties. I do not say that the engineers are right or the estimates are correct. I do admit that engineers are liable to err. They may be authorized to examine the subject further to see if it is possible that other districts can have water. I do not want to stand in their way and I hope the hon. the Law Member also will not stand in their way. Simply because it is not possible to give water to some districts, I do not believe the hon. Member for Coimbatore and the hon. Member for North Arcot will say that Tanjore should not be helped. (Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: 'Daniel coming to judgment.') Well, the hon. Member says: 'Daniel coming to judgment'. Certainly, I would welcome that Daniel, if he comes to examine, and says water can be taken to Coimbatore and Salem.

"There is one other thing to which I wish to refer and it is this. My hon. Friend, Sir Patro, was saying the other day that the people of this Presidency have been overtaxed for sometime owing to the then financial stringency and that it is necessary that the surplus which we are having on account of the remission of the provincial contributions ought to be first

utilized for the remission of taxes. I am glad that the ex-Minister changed his mind as soon as he left the Treasury Bench. He also said that the people of this province are being overtaxed and that it is necessary that their taxes should be reduced. I would suggest some means by which the taxes could be reduced. I take up the Registration department for the purpose. It should be noted that this department was in charge of the ex-Minister himself. Next comes the revenue derived from Court fees. It is absolutely necessary that the extra registration fees levied from the year 1922 should be taken away and the Court fees on judicial stamps should be reduced. These should be reduced to their old level.

12-30 p.m. "There is one other thing to which I should like to refer. The surplus may first be utilized in the following manner: There is the resolution moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Adinarayana Chettiyar urging the restoration of the pay of the village officers to the pre-amalgamation level. The hon. the Revenue Member was kind enough to tell us that the increase would come to Rs. 45 lakhs. I am afraid that it is rather an exaggerated estimate. The real meaning of the resolution is that the pay which was existing before the amalgamation took place should be restored and I think the increase may be 25 or 30 lakhs of rupees. The hon. Member, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, estimated that it would be only 12 lakhs."

* Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I think the time of the general discussion of the budget is a very useful one. For we take stock at that time of what we have done and what we propose to do in the immediate future. Sometimes it is also useful to think of what we have done to help the poor taxpayer. We expect some amount of broad-mindedness to characterise the budget. As representatives of the people we expect to show them what useful things we have done them. I would say that it is absolutely necessary to remember at this moment and that we must be conscious of the fact that what we do is for the good of the State and not for the good of any individual or community. It is better for us to remember that what we do is dominated by one consideration, viz., that it is good to the people. It does not matter if the Hindu, Muhammadan or any other community is benefited by what we do. But what does matter is that it is to the benefit of the State. We must see whether any act that is done or any word that is spoken is done or spoken to benefit the people.

"What is the benefit of our general discusssion of the budget? We may fix what our ideal is, and we may make an approximate approach to that ideal. What we expect from the organism of the Government is to have experts in every department of knowledge. We want them to be experts and to use their knowledge for the benefit of the State. If these considerations are borne in mind, then the distinction that is made between justicite swarajist and non-swarajist would disappear.

"Therefore I submit that in discussing the budget we have to see what steps have been taken to improve the condition of society, towards the betterment of educational institutions and towards the betterment and uplift of the level of a society as a whole. At the time of the general discussion of the budget we must consider what the State ought to be and we should aim at an ideal. We must regard the State to be a family bound together by ties of mutual service. We expect its members to serve together and to be bound together by ties of goodwill. We expect every community to help every other

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community and not to be against it. The Government should not be regarded as being different from the people. In that aspect we expect every one who is wiser should help those who are in a lower position.

"We need not trouble ourselves what the European institutions or parliamentary institutions are. There is absolutely no necessity for the existence of parties at all in this country. There is only one party, i e., the 'wise' party. There is no other party.

"We must begin with the village. We have several pieces of legislation, Village Panchayats Act, Irrigation and Forest Acts. I would suggest that there ought to be one village local administration Act and the village should be the unit for administrative purposes and it should administer every one of the departments of the village. There must be village temple. The Endowments Board will have to see that each village has a temple. There must be a village school. Unfortunately our experience is that some villages have no school at all. The village schoolmaster is very poorly paid. He must be well-paid. He must be above want and need. He must be a thoroughly educated man to guide and to wisely guide the destinies of the children."

* Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—"Mr. President, Sir, budget time is generally regarded as a festive occasion for our tongues and in the celebration of that feast we have been opening our fire against the Government as a whole. I fear, Sir, that the bureaucratic machine will continue to function as before unaffected or uninfluenced by any criticism directed against it on the floor of this House. It seems to me that there is nothing in the budget to enthuse us. Budget proper ought to be viewed not from the standpoint of the officers responsible for running the administration but must be viewed from a totally different standpoint, viz., from the standpoint of the taxpayer and the standpoint of the man who pays for the administration who may be regarded as the paymaster. Viewing the budget from that standpoint I am sorry to characterise the budget as unsatisfactory, wooden, lifeless and soulless as the taxpayer has not got, in any reasonable degree, anything by way of return to what he pays. His poverty is on the increase. His indebtedness shows no signs of abatement. Nothing has been done to ameliorate his condition. Nothing has been done, nothing has been attempted to be done to better the moral and the material condition of the people as a whole. Here and there some grants have been made. But those grants are absolutely niggardly. The hon. the Finance Member in one portion of his speech confessed that his budget is likely to be open to a charge of recklessness. I may venture to say that it is not only a reckless budget but a niggardly budget also if I may so term it.

"Right through the bureaucratic machine I find--I am sorry--an element of irresponsible irresponsiveness. There is no attempt, no honest attempt to respond to public opinion. On the other hand, if we turn to the history of the Council for the past two years we find the irresponsive attitude of the bureaucracy. They turned down our unanimous resolution regarding the separation of executive from judicial functions. They turned down our resolution to suspend the Land Revenue Settlement operations until a Land Revenue Bill is enacted. We find that some provision has been made in the budget to carry on resettlement operations in East Godavari, West Godavari and also Salem. We passed a resolution to do away with the tree tax and what is the reason given by the Government not to give effect to it? They

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say that reduction was not made on grounds of financial considerations and that it was not justifiable in the public interest. By public interests they mean financial considerations. Then we passed an almost unanimous resolution to constitute a committee to organize and better the condition of the non-gazetted officers. On financial considerations this resolution also was turned down.

"So far as our finances are concerned, this time there may be some glimmering of hope. In the budget I see more than anything the hand of the master juggler. The figures are being manipulated. A deficit budget carries with it the inevitable and the most distressing fact for, when a deficit budget is thrown at our face, we find it very difficult to drive home to the Government our claims for more grants under this or that head. The moment we stand up and place our needs they say, 'our hands are tied; we are working a deficit budget; we cannot make bricks out of sand; how is it possible? Are you willing to submit yourselves to extra taxation?' When the budget estimate for 1926–27 was presented on the 3rd March 1926, we anticipated a deficit of 76·48 lakhs of rupees. Later on, we were told that the deficit may come down to Rs. 34 lakhs. On the contrary, we find that instead of a deficit of Rs. 34 lakhs we find a surplus of over 32 lakhs of rupees. If it is not jugglery it is impossible to understand it in any other sense. It is true that there is a promised remission of provincial contributions to the extent of Rs. 165 lakhs These two factors can, by no means, be regarded as heralding a new dawn in the political firmament of this Presidency unless and until the bureaucratic machinery or the bureaucrats change their heart, have a new angle of vision and unless they set apart a large amount of the surplus for the developing departments and to remove the discontent of the non-gazetted officers and the village officers and others who drag on a very miserable existence owing to smallness of pay. Now their lot remains to be the same. I find from the budget that land remissions came to about 18 lakhs of the total revenue. It comes to about two per cent. It is nothing but a flea-bite. Village communication, sanitation and rural relief have received but scant attention. Nothing has been done to ameliorate the condition of the masses. Taxation must be reduced and steps should be taken to reduce court fees, stamp duties and registration charges. The Local Self-Government Department needs thorough overhauling. It is up to the Ministry to come forward with a go-ahead and progressive policy on Excise, without any equivocation or mental reservation.

"The grant for Education is inadequate. Minor irrigation must receive greater attention and the Government must extend irrigation projects to tracts liable to frequent scarcity."

12-45 p.m. The ZAMINDAR OF SEITHUR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I thank you heartily for having given me a chance to express my humble views in this Council on the budget presented to us.

"Let me also add a word of congratulation to the hon. the Finance Member for the hopeful budget he has presented and for his lucid exposition of it. We were afraid that the famine conditions due to the failure of rains would strain the resources of the Government and leave little scope for carrying out beneficent schemes. But the welcome announcement that the Provincial contribution has been remitted to the extent of about 165 lakhs

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would greatly help the schemes of development in the nation-building departments. It would also dispel the gloom that threatened to envelop the path of the new Ministry in the beginning of its administration.

"Sir, I desire to emphasise the great necessity for the improvement of irrigation facilities in the district of Madura which I have the honour to represent. If the storage capacity of Periyar lake can be increased and an increased regulated discharge from the lake for irrigation can be soon brought about, it would be a great blessing to the vast masses of the agricultural population.

"We hear a great deal about the efforts for the reclamation of the Kallars. But neither the Kallars nor the Maravars have any innate criminal tendency. If some few are black sheep and have taken to bad ways, it is not due to instinct but to economic causes. The vast mass of them are very poor. The Periyar scheme brought water to the fields and enabled cultivation on a remunerative basis, to the Melur taluk of Madura, as a result of which crime has ceased in the home of one section of Kallars. In reclaiming the said classes, I assure you, Sir, nothing will be more potent than more irrigation facilities, a carefully planned net work of co-operative societies on the credit and non-credit sides, and a generous advance of agricultural loans on long and easy terms and also the spread of education in villages, time table and syllabus being so framed as to suit the occupational conditions of these people.

"I am happy to know, Sir, that the construction of a new hospital in a better place in Madura which is long overdue is now in sight.

"Sir, I desire to refer to one more subject. That is to express a hope that the members of the ancient landed aristocracy of the country who have naturally large influence, should more largely come out and take part in popular movements. They should take to the democratic institutions by seeking the suffrages of the territorial electorates for election to the legislatures and local bodies and work for the common and mutual advantage of both the aristocracy and democracy. In this connexion, I take the opportunity to congratulate the Government for having nominated Mr. S. N. Rajkumar Dorairaja, of Pudukottai, to represent our community in the Tanjore district."

* Mr. C. Venkatarangam Nayudu :—"Mr. President, Sir, it is difficult, if not impossible, within the short time allotted to us to make our general observations on the various proposals contained in the budget that has been presented to this Council by the hon. the Finance Member. Even if it were possible it is very doubtful whether the observations we consider it our duty to make have any effect on the executive, entrusted with the administration of both the halves of the Government. Speaking on the budget in this Council last year, I catalogued the various acts of omission and commission on the part of those responsible for the administration of this province and I appealed to the Members to consider if the time had not come for them to take such action as would compel the Government to bend to the national will. Much water has flowed under the bridge since then. The general elections have come and gone and the people by a clear majority have given their verdict against diarchy. In any country where the executive is responsible to the Legislature, the verdict of the people would have been given due weight, and every possible step would have been taken to give effect to

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their wishes. But the bureaucracy in India safely entrenched as they are in power and position heed not the wishes of the people and they carry on the administration in the traditional way, unmindful of the needs and requirements of the people.

"Let me here quote a concrete instance of their ways which affects very largely the well-being of the majority of the people of this province. It is nearly eight years since the Joint Committee of both the houses of Parliament recommended the enactment of a land revenue law, and yet we are left in the same old position, the executive getting on as ever in their old way. The Bill that they introduced in this Council in 1924 was a most reactionary measure hopelessly at variance with the spirit and the letter of the recommendations of the Joint Committee, and the Legislature dealt with it in the only possible manner open to it. The other draft that has recently been published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* is still more so. In addition to its retaining all the objectionable features of the old Bill which were responsible for its being thrown out by the Legislature, an additional taxation clause has been introduced under which manaikats in natham areas which were originally assessed at the dry rate would be given up in favour of a tax on the estimated annual rental value which is bound to be higher than the original dry assessment. I ask whether this is the way in which the interests of the poor agriculturists can be protected. What earthly use is there in appointing commissions and committees to find out ways and means of raising the position of the agriculturist, when the Government is determined to squeeze from the poor agriculturists, the maximum amount of revenue so as to enable them to carry on the administration in a reckless manner? The majority of the people of this province are agriculturists, who are hardly hit by the vagaries of the executive, and I ask the House whether this alone is not a justification for the adoption of the only constitutional course open to us, namely, grievances before supplies. There are many other ways in which poor agriculturists are hardly hit. The rigid observance of the present reactionary Forest Regulations contributes not a little to their suffering. Add to this the failure of the monsoon in the fasli has added considerably to their difficulties. In spite of the resolution passed by this Council in January last to take some steps to minimize their difficulties and sufferings, the Government are adamant, and the provisions contained in the Board's Orders and the Famine Code are exploited to the fullest extent to the detriment of the interests of the poor ryots. These are some of the many hardships to which the ryots who are the paymasters of the bureaucracy in this province are subjected and it is for this Council to consider whether this alone is not sufficient to induce them to decide to reject the grant under the head Land Revenue as a protest against the most reactionary policy adopted by the Government."

* Mr. W. P. A. Soundara Pandia Nadar :—" Mr President, Sir, let me congratulate the hon. the Finance Member for the satisfactory budget which he has presented to us for the ensuing year. Let us also congratulate ourselves on the prospect of the utter remission of the Provincial contributions and on the new era of financial prosperity that is to dawn on us. The complete remission of the Provincial contributions will go a great way towards the ushering in of the much wished for reform of Provincial autonomy. Of course, when we do get full Provincial Autonomy, we ought to agitate for and secure a greater share of the elastic

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revenues than we have at present. It is a regrettable feature of our taxation that we have heads of revenue which are inelastic and which have been taxed to the maximum level.

"Let me now pass on to detail a few grievances which have come to my notice. First and foremost is the situation created in the non-Periyar and Periyar tracts of Madura district by the failure of rains, and hence the failure of crops. In the non-Periyar tracts there has been a complete failure of crops and in the Periyar tracts second crop has completely failed. I request the Government to instruct the district officers to handle the situation with great sympathy and to remit taxes wherever necessary and to inaugurate measures which will ameliorate the condition of the people and relieve their distress.

"Next, I pass on to the domain of my hon. Friend, Dr. Usman Sahib. We were anxiously looking forward to the visit of the hon. Member when we would have had an opportunity to place before him our grievances and sufferings and he would have had an opportunity to acquaint himself with the actual conditions. We regret that he was forced to abandon his proposed visit owing to causes beyond his control. Suffice it for me at present to bring to his notice two special grievances: (1) the raising of the grazing fees from 4 annas to 12 annas and (2) permission to be given for the disafforestation in certain parts in our district. In this connexion, it is my painful duty to invite his attention to the unsympathetic way in which the unsympathetic regulations are administered by the subordinate officials.

"Again, Sir, I regret to observe that the subordinate magistracy are lacking in independence. It is of the utmost importance to a country to possess a thoroughly independent and impartial magistracy. We, His Majesty's loyal subjects, look up to the magistracy for protecting our rights and liberties. Of course the salvation lies in the separation of the executive and the judicial functions. I request the hon. the Law Member to take note of this and to introduce this most urgent and beneficial reform.

"Next, let me pass on to the subject of the issue of gun licences. These licences, as a matter of course, should be issued to the people in the hilly tracts, but unhappily, this is not done. The fury of the wild beasts is not quite so furious as the inhumanity of the officials and the restrictions placed on the granting of licences. I plead for a greater and more vigilant and personal attention on the part of the higher district officials. Let them not be mere slaves of the vagaries of the subordinates.

"Coming to the Department of Agriculture in which I am interested, may I, Sir, suggest this? The scientific manures are at present sold by European firms and it is well known that they are sold at too high a rate. The result is that these manures are out of the reach of the poor ryots. Hence I suggest that the Government may be pleased to open Government manure depots where these scientific manures will be sold at a little above the cost price. I believe this is a good step towards the improvement of agriculture.

"More castration machines ought to be supplied to the taluk veterinary surgeons. The present supply is far too inadequate. Every taluk surgeon should at least have one machine.

"Coming to the Department of Local Self-Government and Education, let me say this: We request the hon. the Chief Minister to see that a good

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portion of the amount is got and spent over rural water-supply. It is one of the most urgent demands and the Government will be worth nothing if we do not succeed in procuring good water-supply for the ryots. I may also request the hon. Minister to see that aided managers of schools admit pupils of the depressed classes into their schools. I may also request the Government to take up the question of laying out the Athur Ghat road on the Lower Palni Hills at the earliest possible moment, as the road is of great importance. It is a matter for regret that it has been completely neglected. Is it because it is useful to Indian planters? I hope not.

"In conclusion, Sir, yesterday I was listening to the pathetic appeal made by hon. Friend Mr. Sahajanandam. As one very much interested in the welfare of the depressed classes, I can specially appreciate the significance of his appeal. Sir, the so-called higher castes, in spite of their professions in words, have nothing but contempt for the depressed classes. Their heart is obdurate and they are unrepenting. Laws and regulations are twisted and they find means to tyrannise over them. But, Sir, let them realize that the future of our country is inexplicably bound up with the progress of the depressed classes and that no real progress is possible without their progress. I believe all the so-called higher castes will realize the injustice of their acts and extend to them brotherly love and equality due to them as God's children. Let the country rise up as one man and let them be lifted up from the depths of degradation and misery in which they are at present."

* Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—" Mr. President, Sir, I really do not think that there is anything in this budget which viewed from the point of view which I have been urging for the last three years to bring to the notice of this Government, viz., that of a villager can be congratulated upon. It is a well-known fact which cannot be ignored that the major portion of the revenues of this Presidency comes from the villagers. Land revenue, excise revenue, or a good portion of it, income-tax or the major portion of it and a lot of other income is entirely due to the villagers. When one looks at the budget and the way in which the Government have been trying for years past to collect revenue from the villagers and spend it for the amelioration of the people in the towns, the utterly neglected villager doubts if there is any salvation for him. It is a fact, Sir, which ought to be taken into account, that the villagers who are having some education, who come to the towns and stay there for some time, do not propose to go and settle down in the villages. The reason is that all the facilities that are being created for the amelioration and convenience of the people are being concentrated in towns to the utter neglect of the villagers. The example of the West must give us sufficient food to realize in time and before it is too late, how it is necessary that attempts should be made to see that the people in the villages do not migrate to the towns. In the West, Sir, we are aware that attempts are now being made to see that the people go and settle down in the villages. As a matter of fact, here there is no necessity to attempt such things and ask the people to go to the villages. It is enough if the Government makes up its mind to see that the people who are already in the villages do not migrate to the towns.

1 p.m. "And for that purpose what is really necessary is to see that some modern amenities, some modern conveniences are extended to the villages. And we ask this as a sheer justice. If we look at the figures, it will be clear

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that vast sums of money are being spent for the townsmen. I am not one of those who complain that conveniences are created in towns. But to create them to the utter neglect of the villagers and at their cost is an act of sheer injustice. What is the provision made this year in the budget for rural water-supply? It is two lakhs and odd. All this sum is provided for the water-supply of but a single town while the rural water-supply scheme extends to the whole presidency. The provision comes to practically nothing so far as the rural parts are concerned. Again, I find that there is very little that has been provided for medical relief in the rural areas. The scheme which has been adumbrated by the previous Chief Minister has been started, I believe, with very good intentions. I do not really believe that the scheme is working very well but the defects in the scheme do not justify the cutting down of the grants for the extension of medical relief to the rural areas. The real difficulty in that scheme seems to be the paltry sum that has been given to those doctors for settling down in villages and more than that, the unhappy interference by the taluk board presidents and the district board presidents has been a stumbling block in the way of these men settling down in the villages. I believe if only this control is removed and they are given a free hand with a decent subsidy, any number of people will be coming forward to settle in the villages and provide medical relief to the people. But how has this been done? The whole of the extra revenue that the Government might possibly find is spent more or less on buildings. It is my complaint along with that of others that a lot of money is spent on buildings. All this sum could well be utilized for the reconstruction of the villages. We are told, Sir, that we are attempting to work up a programme of prohibition in this country and that we must find some resources to substitute the loss. But when the Government find themselves in possession of resources, they say that all the amount is spent on buildings. Some of my hon. Friends in this Council seem to think that the little remission that we may get from the Government of India should be spent on nation building departments. If it is a question of spending this money on the nation-building departments at the expense of the experiments at prohibition, I really believe that our attempts for substituting the resources of the Government by the loss in the excise revenue are not serious. The first charge, I believe, on the amount at our disposal must be towards reducing the revenue on excise. I should at this stage observe that unless total prohibition is tried district by district or in a number of districts, mere palliatives by reducing the consumption of liquor or the number of hours are practically of no use. I have given my experience once before and I believe the hon. Minister for Excise will see to it that the best way of trying prohibition is to try district after district. I am prepared for my own part, Sir, as I have already said from my seat here last time, to offer my services if the hon. Minister is going to start the experiment in my own district. If the hon. Minister comes to the conclusion that it has been a failure in any one district, let him adopt other methods which may suggest themselves to him.

"I should like to pass on to the question of punitive police. Personally I do not think that the Government can do much by introducing punitive police in areas which are not amenable to peace."

*The Raja of Panagal:—"Mr. President, Sir, as the hon. the Finance Member has put it 'the long fight is over'. It has been a fight

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for freedom from being compelled to pay unconscionable contribution to the Central Government. So far as our Province is concerned it has been a protracted fight. It is as old as the award of 1920. My friend, the hon. Mr. Moir, was one of the earliest to join the crusade against iniquitous impost. And as most of the hon. Members know he is unsparing in fighting as he is sparing in stewarding our finances. It is no wonder he comes out the better in the fight. I take this opportunity to offer to him my most cordial congratulations. I congratulate on the prospect of the millstone tied to their necks being removed. The release from the obligations of paying the provincial contributions is financially a source of great relief to our vince As the hon. Members are aware, every department has been for a proseries of years experiencing a great financial strain, a strain on account of which many an important administrative scheme could not be carried out. This release will result in a saving of Rs. 165 lakhs. The saving will be a recurring one.

" The budget under discussion is presented as a deficit budget, with a deficit of 69 lakhs, though it has an opening balance of Rs. 134 lakhs. It seems anomalous. If provision for such schemes as do not require recurring expenditure were made from the opening balance we would not only have no deficit but a surplus budget. I think the surplus might be as much as 65 lakhs of rupees. Besides this, we have the prospect of getting Rs. 165 lakhs by way of remission or contribution.

" The question therefore for us to consider is how best we can utilize the large surplus amounting to 2·30 lakhs. There have been various suggestions from various quarters of this House. But before I deal with the question, I should like to say a few words on the budget as it is presented to us. The budget, is, as I have stated, not a deficit budget but a surplus budget though it may be technically speaking a deficit budget. That being the case, I am rather disappointed to see meagreness of provision for some of the most cherished schemes. I am depressed to find that there is only a provision of Rs. 1,15,000 for the Andhra University. That University has begun its work and is badly in need of financial help. Secondly there has been no provision practically none, to finance the scheme of extension of medical relief in rural areas. There is only a small provision of 5 lakhs for village communications. Provisions made for villages, water-supply schemes, is only Rs. 2,50,000. I hope, Sir, that the Ministers will see that larger amounts are allotted for these important schemes.

" Now I return to the question of utilization of the surplus available to us. Sir, as I have already stated there have been various suggestions for the utilization of our surplus. Some hon. Members think that the amount at our disposal should be utilized for the reconstruction of rural areas. Some are of opinion that they may be utilized for effecting a reduction in certain items of taxation while others opine that they may be utilized for trying experiments of reform in the excise policy of the Government. I have no doubt that every one of these suggestions is worthy of consideration. So far as the last suggestion is concerned, I think I had better leave it alone for two reasons. First, because I am not supposed to know with any degree of certainty what the result of the reform advocated will be. Secondly, my hon. Friends who occupy the Ministerial bench come from or are supported by a party which has been in time and out of time advocating the reform. I think therefore that they would be in a better position to deal with that

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suggestion. There are two other suggestions which require consideration, that of rural reconstruction and of reducing certain items of taxation. As between these two suggestions, I have no hesitation to give my preference to the first. I say the first is to be preferred for the simple reason that it will, if adopted, benefit a much larger section of people. The adoption of the second suggestion will benefit only the litigant population. I am honestly of opinion that a large portion of our surplus, if not the whole of it, should be devoted to financing schemes of village reconstruction. I would suggest as much as fifty lakhs should be allotted for village reconstruction, medical relief, sanitation and the upliftment of depressed classes I would suggest that each item in the final programme of village reconstruction, should get an early allotment of funds and if the allotment in a particular year is not utilized during that year it must lapse to the village reconstruction fund and not to the general revenue, so that it might be utilized later on for the same purpose for which it was originally allotted. If we really want to improve the condition of life in rural areas, we must have village reconstruction fund constituted to go with an unbroken programme of rural reconstruction. Hitherto we have been neglecting the interests of rural population.

"In fact, Sir, the people who contribute most towards our general 1-15 p.m. finances get very little of return. Most of our revenues collected from rural areas are being utilized for expenditure on urban areas. I would ask hon. Members to lay their hands in their hearts and say if we have been discharging our duty to the rural population. (A voice: 'A belated discovery') Sir, I discovered it as early as 1922 when I introduced the new scheme of rural reconstruction.

"No doubt, during the first one or two years after the introduction of the reforms we have not been able to do much in that direction, because the financial strain was great. As soon as the first instalment of remission of provincial contribution was given effect to, we introduced schemes of rural reconstruction. As a result of the inauguration of the scheme a number of dispensaries has been sanctioned out of which 250 have already been opened, for the benefit of rural population. Besides we have the taluk health staff brought into existence to look after rural sanitation and the works of village roads and village water-supply carried out. This was all done at a time of great financial strain. Now that the strain is removed, I am sure that the Ministry would be in a position to pay attention to the question of improving the condition of life in rural areas and earn the gratitude of the millions of people."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"For the information of the House I may say that clapping of hands is not permissible. Cheering by words is permissible, not clapping of hands."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Mr. President, Sir, I do not know if it was by design or by accident that the chambers where the Madras Legislative Council meets were built in the Fort St. George, but undoubtedly it serves a very good purpose. Morning after morning, as we walk or drive up to these chambers, we see the machine guns and field guns, and the European soldiers. These machine guns and the military troops stationed here forcibly remind us that in spite of these paraphernalia of our reformed legislatures, the Ministers, this diarchy, in spite of all our budget discussions and our

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veting on the budget, to-day as in the days of John Company, British rule in this country is a military tyranny which is tolerated, only because the people cannot help it, and that all these paraphernalia have not changed the real nature of the steel frame which sits tight over the people of this country. But it may be asked, why is it then that we are here doing this Sysiphyan task knowing all the time that we shall end where we began? My answer to this question is this, Mr. President. (Mr. V. P. Rao: 'Hear, hear'.) I am glad that a Secretary to the Madras Government is so much impressed with his importance as to ask me why I am here. I am here because I want to say that every time we are insulted, every time we are treated with contempt, by these insults and by this treatment, you are driving a fresh nail into the coffin of the British Government in this country. We are here because we know that the ultimate sanction for the enforcement of self-government in this country is going to come from an angry and self-assertive people who will demand and get what they think is their due, British Government or no British Government. It is because we believe that by our work here we can create an atmosphere of resistance throughout the country which will make the Britishers feel its pressure, we are here. We are hopeful that soon the future Chen of India will be able to tell the future Sir Austen Chamberlain of Great Britain: 'We do not mind your guns; the country will fight you with its economic weapon and gain its cause.' That is my answer, Sir, to my hon. Friend, the Development Secretary, who is so self-complacent as to ask me why I am here.

"I have just a word to say as to the refusal of our party, the Congress party, to accept Ministerial office under diarchy. His Excellency Lord Goschen did us the honour of inviting the Congress party to accept office. It was your privilege, Sir, as the then Leader of the party, to tell the Governor in pursuance of the Congress mandate that we could not accept Ministerial offices under diarchy. We feel that under diarchy there is no power, initiative or responsibility for Ministers, however well intentioned they may be. I say as to the new occupants of these offices to-day they are all honourable men, and I know they will find out sooner or later, I hope sooner than later, that they are there merely to carry out the wishes of unseen powers and the most important of them all is the Finance Member, and that whatever schemes they want to inaugurate they must get his sanction and they must be constantly able to realize that they have no independence, power, or initiative. The two Indian Members of the Executive Council are no better than they, though they may be excellent gentlemen by themselves. I may say that all these five Indian Members on the Treasury Bench have not got as much power as the two gentlemen, the other Members of the Reserved half. All these Indian Members may keep the official secrets, secrets of matters happening in the privacy of their Cabinet chambers, but they must admit at least to themselves that these two gentlemen are far more powerful than all these five Indian Members put together. (Hear, hear.)

"Sir, coming to the budget, we find that more than 12 crores of our revenue is derived from taxing the necessaries or the vices of our people. For land revenue or excise, you take money from the poorest of the people and you take money from the drink habits of the people. Again, I must congratulate the hon the Finance Member and the Madras Government, on having successfully evaded the almost mandatory exhortation of the Joint

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Parliamentary Committee that very soon after the Reformed Legislatures began to function, the land revenue settlement rules must be given statutory form and that this Council must be given powers of control over the rates of assessment. So far, they are successfully evading this injunction, and if I may be allowed to offer a piece of advice to the hon. the Revenue Member, I would ask him to spare himself and this Council the trouble of introducing the new Bill—I mean the Land Revenue Bill which was published—and I would say that it would be given short shrift. Instead of wasting time and money for printing and circulating the Bill and placing it on the agenda of this House, I do hope, Sir, that he, as a wise man, will profit by this advice and will not introduce the Bill before this House.

"Then Sir, with regard to the question of how to make use of the surplus which has now become available to us, I have only one word to say. The Ex-Chief Minister has such queer ideas about prohibition that when it comes to the question of taking it up seriously, he says he knows nothing about it. I congratulate him upon that barrenness of policy after having held office for six years. But we have now learnt that that party is also enthusiastic about prohibition, if their new spokesman from Tinnevelly is to be believed, and they admit that drink is an unmitigated evil and that prohibition ought to be introduced at once. Wisdom comes late to her children, but I trust in this case it has come really and sincerely, and will last whatever the temporary tenements of the members of that party may be, this side or that side. Sir, the Ministerial party has definitely laid down that prohibition is their goal, and that it is to be reached by definite and successive stages. I feel it my duty to tell the hon. Member for Excise that on this side of the House there is very strong, very sincere and very earnest feeling that this drink revenue ought to go and that prohibition ought to be introduced as early as practicable, and if he feels he is there to carry out the wishes of the House, he must do something radical in order to make that programme practicable and immediately effective, at least partially.

"My hon. Friend the Law Member has nearly finished his term of office. The tragedy of his official life may not be known to him yet. But when he lays down his office, he will find that he has been for a series of years on attempts at great ends, but in the result, facing failure after failure. What has become of the separation of the judicial and executive functions? As a lawyer, he sees the benefits of it; as a Member of this Council he agrees with it; but he says that the Government of India are against it. Then, with regard to the increased court-fees and stamps, he is now taxing justice, and I hope that at least a portion of the surplus will be utilized to reduce this increased taxation. Then, Sir, with regard to the Indianization of the Police, may I draw attention to one fact? He may be the Law Member. An Indian may be the Governor of a province, but in the special department of the Criminal Investigation department no Indian however eminent, can sit, but only Anglo-Indians, preferably. I take it that neither Europeans nor Indians are to be appointed there. And yet he is an Indian occupying the position of an Executive Councillor in charge of that department; but in his own department he dare not appoint an Indian. That is why I said he has no more power than I have. (Laughter.) With regard to the Mettur project, Mr. President, I am not one of those who are against the project. I see great possibilities from it. But, Sir, I understand that a deliberate attempt is being made there to exclude all

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Indian genius, to deliberately encourage foreign imports and to put down indigenous supplies of materials. I give this information for what is it worth, but it is up to the hon. the Law Member to examine the matter thoroughly and see that no room is given for this complaint.

"Now, Sir, the administration of forests by my hon. Friend the Home Member is a huge joke. (Laughter.) We get 50 lakhs and spend 49 lakhs for it. I do not know why it ought not to be made a paying department. My hon. Friend collapsed me yesterday, when I asked him how he justified the Mappilla Colonization scheme, by blandly asking for notice. May I suggest to him that, being an Indian Member, he could certainly say whether he would put an end to the scheme which has been condemned not only once, but thrice on the floor of this House? What else are the Indian Members there for? Are they there to dot the i's and cross the t's of the European colleagues or servants? If that is so, let us at least save money and have only the two European Executive Councillors.

"Then, with regard to expenditure, we spend nearly half of the revenue on the Reserved departments and on our contribution to the Central Government which is now remitted. Nearly half, that is, seven crores and more, is spent on the Reserved half. So far as the remission of the provincial contributions is concerned, I am glad the representative of the Government of Madras in the Legislative Assembly, my esteemed friend, Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, seems to have clearer conceptions of the rights of the province as against the Government of India than my hon. Friend, Sir A. P. Patro, who, working up his fevered imagination, said that because of the remission of the iniquitous contribution which has been wiped out we have attained provincial autonomy. The Government of India, had no right to accumulate surpluses by taxing provinces; but it seemed to Sir Patro that the days of financial and provincial autonomy had dawned. I do hope that the House will not take that view which my hon. Friend took, but only look upon it as an act of tardy justice. I am glad that my friend Sir Patro has discovered after he laid down his office that part at least of the surplus should be utilized for the relief of taxation. I have a faint recollection that registration was under his charge, and I have also a faint recollection that registration charges were increased, and I have another faint recollection that when he was Minister a large portion of the provincial contribution was remitted. Why was not that amount allotted then for the reduction of registration charges?"

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"There was no surplus then."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTHI :—"The hon. Member then pleaded want of funds. But now to declare that there was no surplus and therefore he could not reduce the charges seems to be a lame excuse. For any Finance Member will be too much of a financial juggler to show any surplus. Anyhow, I am glad that he now at least after he has laid down the reins of office realizes how this amount should be applied. I do commend to the hon. the Finance Member and the Government that at least 50 lakhs should be set apart for the remission of increased stamp fees, court-fees, and registration charges.

"Then, the Justice party also, Mr. President, through my esteemed friend, the hon. Member for Malabar, has made another pertinent discovery that the Irrigation Bill should have been passed into law in the last Council, and should never have been allowed to be adjourned."

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Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" On a point of personal explanation, Mr. President. I never said that. What I said was that it was risky to go on with a huge scheme without an irrigation law."

Mr S. SATYAMURTI :—" I do not believe in saying that 1 and 1 is 2, that 1 and 1 is 2, and that therefore 2 and 2 is 4, when it can be said that 2 and 2 is 4. I believe in saying that 2 and 2 is 4. I, therefore, say that the hon. Member did say that the Irrigation Bill should have been passed into law and should not have been postponed. I may remind him, if his memory is short, that a member of the Justice party moved and another seconded that the Irrigation Bill be adjourned *sine die*—and it was adjourned, in spite of the strenuous opposition of the Congress party. Although I am not a very old member, I have not seen a more despicable chapter in the history of the Government of Madras, than when the Reserved Half and the Transferred Half entered into a compact with each other, when the Transferred Half wanted the votes of the Reserved Half for the Religious Endowments Bill and the Reserved Half wanted the votes of the Transferred Half to agree to the postponement of the Irrigation Bill *sine die*. It was a policy of 'you scratch my back and I will scratch yours.' And taking advantage of the temporary absence of the hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, the members of the Justice party hurled choice epithets at him and it was thought not necessary by his colleagues of the Reserved Half even though he happened to be his colleague to defend him, though they claim to be true sportsmen and Englishmen. His colleagues remained quiet. And yet my hon. Friend says that the Bill should have been passed into law." 1-30 p.m.

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" What were you doing ? "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" We voted against the adjournment and we were in a minority. That is why the people have sent us here and you are there to-day." (Laughter and cheers.)

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Clapping of hands is not permitted."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, then the hon. the Finance Member in his budget memorandum has tried to make a laboured explanation that the expenditure on Transferred Half has been increased very much more than the expenditure on the Reserved Half since the inception of the reforms. I agree that the figures are right, so far as they go. There are three kinds of lies—black lies, white lies and statistical lies. To-day, as in the beginning of the reforms, the proportion of expenditure between Reserved and Transferred Halves is very nearly the same. We are still spending two-thirds on the Reserved departments and one-third on the Transferred."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member is reaching the time limit."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Yes, Sir, I am closing. Only two minutes more."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" One minute."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" All right, Sir. So far as the University is concerned, I do want the hon. the Education Minister to look at the Andhra University with sympathy. It is an accomplished fact and it should not be starved for want of funds.

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"My friend, the hon. the Minister for Development, has given the promise to bring an amendment to the Religious Endowments Bill. I hope he will sit at it in earnest and see that the Board is not allowed to have its own way.

"One last word and I have finished. I know that before the end of this term of this House is reached, the Royal Commission will be in our midst. and I know they will be anxious to know how we have worked the reforms, As one who claims to know English psychology, I claim that we, Congressmen, have got a clear conscience to go before the Commission and say, 'Well, we on our side have been always and are to-day prepared for honourable co-operation, co-operation on honourable terms. But the people on your side, the bureaucracy, never wanted our co-operation but slavish submission to them. That is why we refused to co-operate. Let them give us the right to govern ourselves in all its varied aspects and they will find that Congressmen will play the game. But Congressmen will always refuse to be in office as chobdars and daffadars of the bureaucracy."

*Rao Bahadur K. SITARAMA REDDIYAR :—"Permit me, Sir, to congratulate the members of the present ministry. We have been hearing these two days praises sung in their honour and congratulations offered to the Finance Member. With your permission I offer congratulations to the members of the ministry not because they have achieved any great things.—It is true their term has been very short and it is unfair to expect any achievements by them within such a short period —I choose to congratulate them because they have got very bright prospects before them. Even in the first year of their life their prospects are bright. Unlike the past ministry which had been witnessing years and years of deficit budgets, this ministry has to face the surplus budget even during the first year of its tenure. But it remains to be seen what they will do to avail themselves of this opportunity. The House is aware, Sir, that the next year as also the succeeding years promise to be fair years in that the impost is likely, may I say is sure, to be done away with. Therefore the question remains how best to distribute the surplus which is now available in the hands of the provincial exchequer. My hon. Friends from Tinnevelly and Chittoor have made out a strong case and other hon. Members of the House like the Leader of my party the Raja of Panagal has made out a similar case for the necessity of rural reconstruction. The idea of constituting a fund for purposes of village reconstruction is an excellent one. We have seen for some years past that allotments were allowed to lapse. The Finance Member and, I suppose, the Minister in charge of rural sanitation have accused the local boards of not spending the allotments which have been given to them. I may assure them, Sir, that if only allotments had been made in proper time and proper season these local boards would not have found any difficulty in spending. Recently presidents of some district boards have received a memorandum from the Secretariat. I take it that it has been done at the instance of the hon. Minister in charge asking us to let them know what our programme will be in connexion with the rural water-supply. We were surprised to get this memorandum. The country is aware that any amount of money if only it is available can be spent in this connexion. We were not in a position to reply to the memorandum. Before this we received another communication to give them an idea of their programme for the next three years and that is a sounder one. I suppose there is

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this missing. When we are not given an idea of the fund that will be placed at our disposal it is not possible to exactly send them an idea as to the amount which we may be able to spend. If only they give us an idea of the actual amount that may be available for the next few years surely there may be no difficulty in preparing a programme seeing that the expenditure is incurred. I therefore request the hon. Minister in charge of Public Health to give us an idea as to what amount will be available for the next three years so that we may give him an idea as to our future programme. Sir, I have again, even at the risk of tiring the patience of this House to repeat some of the requests which were made by some of the Members of this House. The rural medical relief which has been inaugurated by the hon. the Raja of Panagal is an excellent one and in answer to a question which has been recently put on the floor of this House—I believe it was yesterday or day before yesterday—it was maintained that there had been no complaints till now on the working of these rural dispensaries and I do not see why the hon. Minister in charge has not been able to impress upon the hon. the Finance Member the necessity for the further extension of this scheme. I may assure him having some knowledge of the working of these institutions that this is a splendid idea and it deserves encouragement. The only thing about this system is inadequacy as has been pointed out by some other hon Members, the inadequacy of the subsidies which are now offered to the practitioners who have to set up their families in the far off places where these institutions are started. The further question in the allotment of surplus should be the reduction of taxes, viz., registration fees, court fees, stamp fees and the like which have been recently enhanced. Before I close, Sir, I have to offer one or two remarks about the agricultural indebtedness of the country. With the heavy taxation of land revenue and with the increased powers of local boards to levy the various sorts of cesses like the education cess, the local board cess and other cesses under different sections of the Local Boards Act and with other numerous cesses which the panchayats may levy and with increased cost involved in high living which has permeated even the rural parts, the lot of the agriculturist is pitiable. It remains to be seen what the Agricultural Commission is going to do in the near future regarding the rural agricultural population of the country. But there is no use in waiting till then. I would request the Ministers to prepare the ground for putting into execution all the schemes which may be formulated by them. I would suggest, for instance, the extension one question which seriously affects the agriculturist, viz., the export of bone and manure which must be strictly prohibited. The hon. Minister can at once rise up and say that this is not our matter and that it concerns the Imperial Government. I know this a matter concerning the Imperial Government but I wish to impress upon the hon. Minister the necessity of bringing home to the Imperial Government the necessity of doing away with the export of bones and manures like oil-cakes. When these are exported in large quantities the agriculturists find themselves handicapped for proper manures. The export of groundnut may be economically sound but the export of oil-cakes manufactured in this country must be strictly prohibited. Let them by all means take the groundnuts by paying a decent price for the commodity but let not the cakes manufactured in this country be exported to the prejudice of the agriculturists. While on this topic I am reminded of the necessity of the improvement of the cattle on which the agriculturists depend. The condition of the cattle

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in this Presidency is getting worse day by day. It is a good thing that the Government have done away with the touring veterinary establishments. After all they are seriously thinking of starting more dispensaries. We realize the necessity of human medical relief. It is with equal force necessary to provide cattle medical relief. I would therefore press the necessity for at least one dispensary for each taluk in this province.

1-45 p.m. "I also suggest the need for maintenance of breeding bulls at proper centres and providing facilities for improving the cattle. The present condition of cattle in this province is really pitiable and does tend to degeneration. Those of us who own cows and cattle do feel that we are not able to get good breeding bulls and the cattle are allowed to deteriorate very badly.

"The other subject to which I will invite the attention of the hon. the Minister in charge of Medical is the inadequate provision made in the budget for the taluk headquarter hospitals. We were told—of course unofficially—that there was a proposal pending with the Secretariat that all the taluk headquarter hospitals should be taken over by the Government. The present system is that all the officers are manned from the provincial revenues, and the charges for the compounder, the midwife and some other menials and also the medicine charges are met from the local board funds. I would urge as a measure of relief to the local boards and also as a measure of betterment of taluk headquarter hospitals that these institutions should be taken away from the control of the local boards, not because the local boards are reluctant to continue to manage them, but because this charge will afford some financial relief to the local boards. I believe that this scheme, if adopted, would mean that a few lakhs would be available to the local boards for other purposes, and I hope that the hon. the Minister in charge of Medical will see his way to getting this done at least next year.

"I will then refer only to one other matter, namely, light railways. We have been told that light railways was a provincial subject, and I remember—if I am not seriously mistaken—a communique was received some time ago asking us to send proposals for the construction of light railways from the accumulations of railway cess. The South Arcot District Board sent up proposals for the construction of light railways, and the matter has been pending for the last nearly two years. It is high time that the present Minister takes up the question, instead of leaving the matter to be handled by the South Indian Railway or some other body, and himself directly deal with it."

* Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—"Mr. President, Sir, it is my privilege to address the House last on this side of the House. You are aware, Sir, that I belong to the largest elected group in this Council. Nowhere in India can we find a parallel to this largest elected group being in the Opposition. Sir, the most unreasonable attitude of the Government has made it impossible for the elected representatives of the people to co-operate with them in running the Government. It is the die-hardism of a reactionary Government that can possibly exult in the satisfaction of having formed a Ministry outside the majority group. However, die-hardism in this Presidency has not gone to emphasize itself further by forming the Ministry out of a group against which the country has unmistakably expressed itself again. I have no doubt, Sir, that His Excellency the Governor has acted under the instructions from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State in forming a Ministry of the sort he has done. But, so far as we are concerned,

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it makes absolutely no difference. We cannot accept Ministry under this Government excepting on honourable terms that may be agreed upon by mutual understanding. We do not believe that there is any responsibility now vested in the Ministry. If anybody should think that there is any responsibility, he will ere long disillusion himself of that impression. Sir, thanks to our countrymen who have returned us in these numbers; they have made it possible for us to drive another nail in the coffin of diarchy in this Presidency by compelling the Government to form a Ministry outside the majority group.

"Coming to the topic of the presentation of the budget, I do not believe there is anything to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member of this Presidency on this budget. No doubt, the Finance Member's speech has been helpful to a certain extent to understand the otherwise ununderstandable figures of the budget. But so long as we have no control over the Finance Department, it matters very little whether a particular budget is a surplus budget or a deficit budget. For, as has been observed, a prospective deficit budget could be transformed into a surplus budget after the lapse of three or four months either due to unexpected increase in revenue, or due to mistakes of the clerical staff. We have had an instance of a certain item instead of being credited to the Provincial Government was credited to the Central Government, which mistake was subsequently detected. Nobody can say with any positive certainty that the present budget does not contain mistakes of that nature. But what we are concerned with is from what sources of revenue this Government is carried on. There are two important sources of revenue, namely, land revenue and excise revenue. Both of these have got their own sorry tales to tell. The incidence of land revenue and the severity of it has been felt by the people of this Presidency and has been a source of perennial complaint and strong protest. Promises and assurances have been given by previous Governments of introducing fixity of land assessment. But all those promises have been sought to be explained away by one interpretation or another. If you look into the figures, you will find that the increase in land revenue when you compare the year 1925-26 with the year 1920-21 is Rs. 83·17 lakhs. The total increase of land revenue exacted between the years 1920-21 and 1925-26 is about Rs. 291·28 lakhs. Thus the agriculturist has been paying every year an increased assessment at the rate of Rs. 40 lakhs. After heartless exaction of this nature coupled with the remarkably low outturn of our crops, it is impossible to conceive that the agricultural population can sustain this kind of extortion for long. Sir, the rigidity of the land revenue policy and the elasticity of this assessment has driven many a ryot to the clutches of the money-lender. He is hopelessly indebted now. He has neither enough to eat, nor to clothe himself. The pitious appeals that were made and the incessant demands for some fixity of revenue assessment have all been dismissed with a carelessness and disregard that is peculiar to a foreign Government. The Madras Government has done enough to warrant suspicion against its bona fides. Sir, the hon. the Revenue Member just on the eve of the budget has been good enough to publish what is called a Land Revenue Bill. (Laughter) I hope, Sir, he will take the lesson from what the Legislative Council has already done, and withdraw the Land Revenue Bill which he has published. If not, I may assure him that it will soon share the same fate which the previous Bill deservedly got.

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"Sir, referring to the seasonal conditions, the hon. the Finance Member has said.

'It is a matter of great regret that an unfavourable season should have reduced our resources, temporarily affected the spending power of considerable sections of the community, and diminished employment. But I should deprecate an undue exaggeration or pessimism which is likely to have unfavourable psychological reactions, to encourage the withholding of supplies from markets and to justify and thereby to intensify on the part of dealers in grains and other essentials a natural tendency to timidity and caution which is apt to square with their conception of their own interests. After all, we are not inexperienced in unfavourable seasons or lacking in the machinery to deal with them.'

"The hon. the Finance Member's regret at the present seasonal conditions is not because the ryot is in great distress but because his sources of revenue will be affected. He says that the spending power of the community will be affected. Spending powers of which community? Is it the power of the contributors to drink? Is it the spending power of that community which is affected, for which the hon. the Finance Member expresses a regret? He further says that this is not peculiar for we have been accustomed to great famines and to a long series of famines; 'therefore don't lose heart; if you have famine in a particular year, it is not an unusual condition.' . . ."

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" On a point of order, Sir. It is not what I have said. The hon Member should quote me correctly."

* Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" I refer to his statement, 'After all, we are not inexperienced in unfavourable seasons or lacking in the machinery to deal with them' and I am making a comment upon that. When he says that we are accustomed to famines, I would only draw the inference that his regret is not because the people suffer but because the spending power of the community is affected. Knowing as he does that this country is prone to continuous famines, what is it that the Government have done to avoid those recurring famines except merely regretting or providing employment to people who are turned out of agriculture by starting some works? Is it to take advantage of famine conditions that you have got to start works? It is not however suggested that we need reduce the programme which provides employment in the country. It is certainly in consonance with the policy of the present Government to provide employment for the famine, affected people and to construct jails for people who are convicted, and to open dispensaries for people who are affected with disease. Instead of taking measures to prevent them, they say we are providing ameliorative things of that kind. You increase crime by causing poverty to the people and then increase the accommodation in jails. What does the increased accommodation in jails indicate? It indicates that the people are too poor to earn an honest living and that they are driven to commit crimes and enter jails.

2 p.m. "Sir, some famines are due to the unfavourable seasonal conditions and more are due to the economic poverty of the population brought about by the manipulation of the currency policy and callous neglect of irrigational facilities. The hon. the Finance Member said that 'there is no reason to suppose that there will be any insufficiency of food supplies'. I do not think we have had famines of a nature in which food supplies fell short of the demand of the country. The reason why famines were occurring from year to year is that we have not the wherewithal to buy our own food supply. What is the use of placing a mint of gold before use and depriving

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us at the same time of the power or means of utilizing it? Has the hon. the Finance Member convinced himself that the poor ryot is able to buy his foodstuffs? The average income in this country is 45 rupees per head, and does the hon. the Finance Member expect that a man could live on Rs. 45 a year though there may be a large amount of supplies in the country? It seems to me that it is somewhat of a cruel type of pleasure that is felt by the Government when they say 'It is comforting to think that we are not compelled to reduce that programme of works which provides employment to the country'. What the Government troubles itself about is large revenue and nothing else. I am afraid the Government has not the foresight of the ordinary man 'not to kill the goose that lays golden eggs'. Government has now driven the poor ryot to desperation if it has not already succeeded in doing so. It is necessary that the Government should consider some other means by which it could possibly augment its income. What does the Government do now? It places all sorts of temptations before the people.

"Another source of income of which we are to feel proud is the excise revenue. How do you get it? By making the people drink and go to rack and ruin. Examining this revenue we see that the hon. the Finance Member is rather regretful that this revenue fell short of 1925-26 by 4·88 lakhs, mainly due to decrease in consumption of country spirits. I hope I may be able to comfort the hon. the Finance Member by saying that the Madras Presidency has returned the largest revenue from that source. From 69 lakhs in 1907-08 it has grown to 184 lakhs in 1923-24, i e., an increase of 132 per cent in the revenue and an increase of 53 per cent in consumption. So the hon. the Finance Member need not be sorry that there has been a decrease of 4·88 lakhs. Even now this province gives the largest revenue in excise. Every rupee of this excise revenue has misery attached to it.

"Sir, one other point I wish to impress upon this House. The expenditure on Administration should bear a certain proportion to the income. No statistics are available to draw up a ratio but the signs are clear that the country's administration is kept up at a very high pitch, and the savings to the country are absolutely nil.

"The only other thing that I wish to comment on is the development of Industries. Unfortunately, the development of industries is given a step-motherly treatment. It is necessary that they should be developed so as to afford additional employment to the poor agriculturists and ryots. I am told that even the small aid that is recommended under the State Aid to Industries Act has to secure the sanction of the Finance Member before the Development Minister can spend any amount under it. Several loans which have been recommended by the Board of the State Aid to Industries Act are pending sanction of the Finance Member. The Carnatic Paper Mills have not been given the loan sanctioned by the Board of Industries. This is the only one large industry. before the Development Department and even this is placed at the mercy of the hon. Finance Member.

"With reference to the remission of provincial contribution I by no means rejoice at the prospect of getting it perfect; because we are legitimately entitled to it. But when we consider at what cost to the national wealth that that money is being remitted I can by no means be overjoyful at the prospect

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of getting it. But if however that money is got, it is incumbent upon the Government to first of all set it off against the increased taxes which they had imposed during 1921-22."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member has already exceeded the time limit. He is requested to close his speech soon."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" And an earnest and honest attempt should be made to tackle with the question of prohibition."

The House adjourned for lunch at 2-5 p.m.

After Lunch (2-45 p.m.).

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" To-day the Council will continue to sit till half past five and I do not propose to fix any time limit on the hon. Members of the Treasury Bench. The debate must be terminated by half past five."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :— " Mr. President, I do not propose taking up very much of the time of this House except to reply as briefly as possible to the remarks made by hon. Members in the speeches that they have made so far. Taking up the departments in my charge, I shall first refer to the Department of Public Health. It includes water-supply and drainage and rural sanitation. For water-supply and drainage, hon. Members may have seen, we have made a provision in the coming year, of 22·16 lakhs. The question of water-supply may be divided into two parts :— The water-supply of cities, i.e., of larger municipalities and pilgrim centres and the water-supply of unions and rural water-supply which means water-supply of villages. For this item there had been no budget provision from the years 1921 to 1925 for the reason that the Financial Relations Committee considered this to be a duty that devolved on local boards and municipalities. But from the year 1925 onwards budget provision has been made and in the current year we have made a provision of 2·5 lakhs. 'This inadequate provision", in the words of several hon. Members, has to be explained. I may say at once that although the budget provision is only 2.5 lakhs it does not follow that we are not going to increase it later on. One reason why we had to provide such a low sum was that at that time we had not sufficient information as to what exactly the demands under this item were going to be. To enable us in the future to get more correct information, and put us in a position to budget correctly we have recently called upon the district boards and taluk boards to draw up a programme of works so as to indicate their requirements and at the same time to send us a programme of works they consider as urgent and should be carried out during the next three years. I do expect that when we have heard from these bodies and are then in a position to know exactly what the urgent demands will be we shall be in a position even during the coming year to increase our budget provision. I have no doubt that in this matter there is room for considerable improvement. Several hon. Members have referred to this question and I entirely agree with them that the matter of village improvements is one of paramount importance. And I do not see why in the coming years for village water-supply and village sanitation and so forth we should not budget for a sum of 25 lakhs instead of 2·5 lakhs,

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Taking into consideration the fact that we have received recently a remission of the Provincial contributions, we have every hope that with sufficient finances we shall be in a position to allot more money for rural schemes.

"Hon. Members have referred to the fact that the grants made in previous years have sometimes lapsed and the Raja of Panagal suggested that allotments might go into what he called the Village Reconstruction fund so that even if the district boards are not in a position to spend in any particular year the amounts allotted to them, the balance might not lapse to Government but may continue to remain in the fund to be utilized in the coming year. That is a financial matter and I shall have it looked into with my hon. Colleague, the Finance Member.

"Concerning drainage, we have a programme of drainage schemes for municipal towns and recently we have decided on the execution of these schemes so as to enable us to take up part schemes which are considered urgent and which could not be taken up if we enforced the old rule of complete sanction to the whole scheme. I hope that when the new arrangement comes into force we shall be in a position to take up many urgent schemes which are part schemes and this, I expect, would enable us to ask several municipalities to complete urgent parts of their drainage schemes.

"Concerning rural sanitation, our chief problem is that of cholera. I hope that with larger budget allotment in the coming years and the provision of protected water-supply in our villages, we shall be able to deal with the problem more satisfactorily in the future than in the past. I do not think I need refer here to all our difficulties in dealing with the problem of cholera. We are not merely providing for the free distribution of medicines, but we are considering various ways in which we can tackle the problem of village water-supply either by the improvement of village ponds or by the sinking of wells or by providing tube wells and so on, as each separate area demands a separate treatment. One of our great difficulties in dealing with this problem of cholera is, in some places, the very abundance of water-supply. Taking, for example, the case of the district of Tanjore which is intersected by net-works of rivers and channels our problem is rather one of preventing the people from getting into trouble by the very abundance of their water-supply, because cholera starting from the head of the delta spreads throughout and all the villages in the delta are affected soon after the head of these canals and rivers are affected with cholera. The matter is under investigation and I hope we shall be able to devise a satisfactory method for keeping within limit this particular trouble.

"Concerning smallpox, I believe, we have the matter fairly under control. During my recent inspection I found however that the provision for hospital treatment was quite inadequate. The question is however a difficult one; I mean the question whether we should provide isolation hospitals and whether we should have isolation and compulsion. I believe it may be many a long day before we are able to enforce compulsion in this matter. But we do hope that in the coming years when new hospitals spring up in many of our mufassal stations, we shall be in a position to make a beginning in the matter of these isolation hospitals by using the old buildings which are no longer required.

"We are also trying in the coming year to tackle the problem of malaria. We intend placing an officer on special duty in connection with the malaria

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problem and as we get experience we hope to be able to tackle the problem satisfactorily. The question of the free distribution of quinine which some hon. Members raised at question time is also receiving consideration. I hope we shall be able to put into force the suggestion to distribute quinine freely in certain areas. We are also trying to deal with the problem of hookworm and several district boards, I am glad to say, are taking interest in this matter, particularly the District Board of Madura. I must confess that there is a great deal of apathy and indifference in this matter.

3 p.m. "I do hope that, when we are to publish the results of what is being done by the District Board of Madura, other district boards will follow suit and tackle this very serious problem so as to minimise the economic loss that is caused by this disease.

"Under medical relief we have provided nearly Rs. 15 lakhs for Civil Works alone. The budget provision for Civil Works—Medical—in Madras is Rs. 5·7 lakhs and for the mufassal the provision is Rs. 9 lakhs. I refer to this point because several hon. Members of this House remarked that we were trying to help Madras at the sacrifice of the interests of the mufassal parts. I do not think that is true. That is why I said that the budget provision for the mufassal is almost double the provision for medical civil works in Madras. Besides providing for improvements to the General Hospital, hon. Members will notice that in the budget we have provided large sums of money for improvements to the hospitals at Guntur, Coimbatore and Vizagapatam and for the Medical Schools of Guntur, Coimbatore and Tanjore. We are also constructing a new headquarter hospital at Madura. Concerning the General Hospital about which several hon. Members have spoken, it will be noticed that our budget provision for the next year is only Rs. 2 lakhs and I feel that hon. Members possibly are not in possession of the full facts that led the Government to determine on the present form of improvements to the General Hospital. The hospital was started about 50 years ago and during all the years that have gone not many improvements have been carried out I can say with certainty that the present General Hospital is not a credit to the city of Madras. I am sure that if hon. Members would care to go and pay a visit to the hospital and examine it, they will agree with me that it is good time that we have started to make the General Hospital a central place of treatment on up-to-date lines and in keeping with the requirements of modern science,—to make it a model hospital and a model teaching institution for this Presidency. One of our chief requirements in General Hospital is the want of a good out-patient department. Hon. Members of this House who are doctors and others who have had occasion to visit the General Hospital will know about the very great inadequacy of the present accommodation in the out-patient department, and how very unsatisfactory the present arrangements are. Besides the out-patient department, the estimates provide for a new Surgical block and an Operation theatre. It should have an up-to-date Surgical block and an up-to-date Operation theatre. I think hon. Members will admit that the present Operation theatre of the General Hospital is not anything to be proud of. I shall be justified in using stronger language. I think the requirements of the present day surgical treatment necessitate the provision of an up-to-date Surgical block and an up-to-date Operation theatre as well. Another important item in the new scheme of the improvement of the General

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Hospital is a new X-Ray Department. The present X-Ray Department is housed in a temporary building hon. Members of the House would have noticed that some patients are lying in verandas and outside. The department which is so inadequately housed has to deal with about 52,000 patients a year. I think it will generally be admitted that the present arrangements are entirely out of date. Another item that we have provided is a new Venereal and Leprosy block. It is now recognised that venereal disease has not received the attention that is required. The economic loss resulting from venereal disease has not been fully realised. I feel that hon. Members will admit that the provision of a new Venereal and Leprosy block comes not a day too soon. I think the hon. Member from Malabar stated that the new General Hospital did not provide for any single new bed. As a matter of fact, the new hospital will provide for 30 extra beds. The condition that necessitates 120 beds to be accommodated in temporary sheds at present in the hospital compound is not a thing to be proud of. Other Madras hospitals provide altogether for 450 beds. The new General Hospital will provide for 528 beds. Taking the total of the beds available in all the hospitals in Madras to be a thousand, it is not much for a population of nearly 6 lakhs One important fact I might refer to on this subject is that about 45 per cent of the cases dealt with in the General Hospital come from the mufassal. I may mention that point in particular because it is complained that the hospital was catering entirely to the citizens of the Madras City. This fact that there a large percentage of cases from the mufassal cities and villages treated in the hospital, will go to prove that by providing for the General Hospital in Madras we are also providing for the requirements of the mufassal. The hon. Lady Member stated that there was no provision in the budget for the treatment of venereal disease. I think that is a mistake. It will be seen that there is a provision for this purpose. It was also urged that we should provide for the free treatment of venereal disease. The matter is under consideration and on calculation it was found that if we were to provide for free treatment, the annual cost would come to Rs 10 lakhs. We could not therefore decide without further consideration when such a large outlay has to be incurred. Concerning the Children's Hospital in Madras, the present accommodation in our hospital is for 106 beds. The question whether we should provide for concentrated treatment and whether we should provide for a central Children's hospital will receive due consideration. The question of improvements to the Victoria Gosha Hospital is still under consideration and we have not yet arrived at any conclusions.

"Several hon. Members have referred to the proposal that has been under consideration for some time by Government, of taking over the entire financial responsibility for the taluk headquarter hospitals. This necessarily means a large amount of annual outlay. We shall have to appoint about 140 new assistant surgeons and displace sub-assistant surgeons and the annual expenditure will probably amount to Rs. 5 lakhs. We have not arrived at any conclusions in this matter, but it is very likely that we shall agree to take over those hospitals provided we are able to make the necessary financial arrangements.

"Concerning rural medical relief to which some hon. Members have referred, I may say that in the coming year's budget we are making provision for the establishment of about 387 rural dispensaries, at the rate of three

for every taluk. Up to date the number of rural dispensaries opened is 59 so that we are practically providing in the budget for a very much larger number in the coming year. The present rate of contribution is Rs. 600 per annum in the case of rural dispensaries employing assistant surgeons and Rs. 400 in the case of those employing sub-assistant surgeons. The question of increasing this subsidy is receiving consideration. Several hon. Members have urged that the rate should be increased, This question will be dealt with in connection with the scheme for taking over the taluk headquarter hospitals because in case we relieve the district and taluk boards of the expenditure of about Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 lakhs it would be necessary to consider the question of this subsidy and to consider the duty of the taluk and district boards to run these institutions.

" Several hon. Members have referred to the question of opening Ayurvedic dispensaries. As I said in reply to questions put at question time, our present difficulty has been in the matter of finding suitable people to run these Ayurvedic dispensaries. Our idea has been always to employ the graduates of the new Indian School of Medicine in these dispensaries."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" Do the candidates in that school get degrees ? "

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—"They are given diplomas. We have no objection to the local bodies such as district boards, etc., opening such dispensaries at their own cost I shall also consider the question of employing Ayurvedic doctors who hold diplomas from Indian Schools of Medicine in other places. The matter requires examination ; it was brought to me only recently and I had not time enough to consider the question.

" Sir, concerning the question of Excise, hon. Members of the House are aware that the policy hitherto pursued was one of minimum consumption and maximum revenue. It is easy for me to produce facts and figures to prove that consumption has been steadily decreasing for a series of years, while the revenue has remained nearly stationary or it has gone down slightly."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" From what year ? "

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" The consumption has certainly been reduced, and I do not think I need argue the question ; but the chief point in which I think hon. Members are interested is the question of future policy. (Hear, hear.) Government have already accepted prohibition as the goal, and it is their intention to work up to that goal as far as possible and press forward as cautiously as possible. (Laughter.) I deprecate, Sir, the placing of any time-limit for the attainment of the goal, for the reason that we have to study the various implications of the question, not merely the financial aspect of the question but what exactly we have to do. Surely, Sir, the financial aspect of the matter is important. If that is the only difficulty, I should not say very much about it ; but we have to see really how much we can do and how far we can proceed in the various areas. We have already been carrying out experiments in prohibition in certain taluks, and as I said, it is my intention to proceed further. We have already ordered the continuance of these experiments for another two years, and it is my intention to start prohibition experiments in some

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other areas also. It is embarrassing to me to mention the areas; but I have had a talk with some Members of the House and I have told them what I propose doing."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"Very large areas?"

*The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—"Yes. I have my reasons for not mentioning the areas. I do not do it because I think it will lead to a considerable amount of embarrassment; but I do intend to proceed further. In regard to the prohibition of arrack also, I intend to carry out an experiment. As regards foreign liquor, I must say that it is my intention to stop foreign liquor, that is, stop F.L. 5 licences in certain areas. (Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti: 'Hear, hear'.) But let me assure the House, Sir, that we do intend proceeding definitely forward. I should like to say that in this matter which is so important and in which there are several complications, it is absolutely necessary that we should proceed step by step, making sure that every step that we take is the right one. It should not be said of us that we rushed rashly and rapidly forward and that we were not able to maintain the pace.

"I have only one matter to refer to, Sir, and I shall be done, and that is the question of Indianization. Some hon. Members on all sides of the House referred to the question of Indianization. One hon Member referred to the Excise department in particular. I think, Sir, it is a fact that there are only a few Indians in the highest ranks of the Excise department, but I believe that in course of time this is bound to disappear. In the Medical and in the Public Works Departments there is nothing to prevent Indians from occupying the highest places, and I do hope that in the years to come, we shall have Indians occupying the highest places provided they are found qualified to occupy such places. 3-15 p.m.

"I have very little to add, Sir, except to say that apart from the Budget, it seems likely that we may be able to do better than is indicated in it. It is our intention to take advantage, as far as may be possible, of the remission of the Imperial contributions, and when the time comes, I do hope that the Transferred departments will share in the fullest, the benefits that the country expects would accrue from the remission of the contributions."

*The hon. Mr. A Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"Mr. President, Sir, I am obliged to you for having prescribed a time by which the eloquence of the Treasury Bench should automatically terminate. I should have been still more grateful to you, Sir, if you had prescribed a time limit for the speeches . . ."

*The hon. the President :—"Order, order. Ordinarily the Council will adjourn at 5 o'clock. The period of three days is to terminate at 5 o'clock to-day, but as we have encroached upon the lunch hour, I thought, in fairness to the Government, the sitting should continue till half past five."

*The hon. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"I was going to say Sir, that I should have been still more grateful if you had also put a time-limit on the speeches . . ."

*The hon. the President :—"Order, order. I thought the Cabinet was a united Cabinet. As for the time, they can agree among themselves to adjust their speeches in such a way as to give time for the hon. the Finance

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Member to make a reply. The rules require that the hon. the Finance Member must have his say at the end of the debate." (Hear, hear.)

* The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Well, Sir, all my colleagues would have been at one with me in cordially accepting that ruling if it had been given."

" First of all, Sir, I must express my sense of gratitude to the kindly spirit which animated all the speeches that were delivered in this House in connection with the Budget. I am conscious of the fact, Sir, that we have not yet earned their kindness, but I hope it may be given to us to deserve it later. My hon. Friend, Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar, wanted that a few more land mortgage banks should be started That is an object with which the Government are in entire sympathy. The only drawback is that the people do not seem to be as enthusiastic as one would like them to be in this matter. We wanted to have eight banks, Sir, but seven only have been formed so far, and of these seven only two are functioning. I appeal, therefore, to the House that it is far better to see that the banks that have been so far formed are established on a sure and satisfactory foundation, so that they may be examples to be followed by other branches elsewhere, than to have too many of them. He also suggested the opening of one or two agricultural schools. I wanted to acquaint myself with the working of these schools and I took the earliest opportunity of visiting the admittedly better of these schools; but I cannot say that I came out with any gratifying sense of the achievements of the school. These are matters, Sir, in which not only one person on one side has to take interest, but in which all have to co-operate and make the experiment successful. I am just for the moment concerned with the question as to how these schools should be reorganised, what standards should be prescribed as qualifications for the students admitted to these schools, and what age limit we should lay down for the students who seek admission to these institutions. After all, Sir, the money which is going to be spent on these schools is the people's money, and surely the House cannot be satisfied, and I would say should not be satisfied, if we on this side simply go on starting more schools without regard to the fact as to how far they are really beneficial and serve the object for which they have been instituted.

" My hon. Friend, Mr. K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar asked, why the Registrar of Co-operative Societies should not be an Indian. May I say, Sir, that there is absolutely no objection to that department being in of an Indian? I may also remind the House that in the past years there have been among the several officers who held that distinguished office, as many as six Indians."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" How many after the Reforms ? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Three after the Reforms."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Temporary and acting ?"

* The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" So that, Sir, as I have already stated, there is really nothing that stands in the way of Indians being appointed to that post."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Appoint one permanently."

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*The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Well, Sir, my hon. Friend, the Member for the University, knows as well as I do what is really due in these matters. I have no doubt that many more opportunities will be given to me to amplify my statement; but in view of the short time at my disposal to finish the speech, let me be allowed to proceed.

" My hon. Friend, Mr. A B. Shetty, wanted a larger number of experimental and demonstration farms, a large number of demonstrators, at least one for each taluk, a deputy director for each district, who should be placed in charge of Agriculture, Co-operation and Industries, with a view to better co-ordination and economy. I am at one with him, Sir, in thinking that we should have a larger number of experimental and demonstration farms and also a larger number of demonstrators. But I find that the difficulty to some extent has been in securing people qualified for these places I am happy to say that the Agricultural College at Coimbatore is now attracting a larger number of students than before, and I do hope that with the increased popularity of this institution, we shall be able to secure in larger numbers competent people to carry on this much-needed work in the country. I am not quite so enthusiastic, Sir, if I may say so, about the appointment of a deputy director. I would rather like to make the foundation broad and stable before I build an edifice on it. As regards the last idea of co-ordinating Agriculture, Co-operation and Industries, that is one which has been off and on examined by the Government, and examined, as a whole, in a sympathetic spirit; but the difficulty I think lies in securing any one officer who could be called an expert in every one of these branches, not only at one time but in succession. To obviate this advantage, Sir, I have decided that there should be a quarterly conference of the Director of Industries, the Director of Agriculture and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies with the Minister and his Secretary, so that from time to time the various problems and difficulties that beset each department may be considered and steps taken to see what could be done to obviate those difficulties and also to co-ordinate and push forward the different activities that are now being carried on by those departments.

" Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Shetty, also suggested that we must do something to help the ryot to produce more out of his land as well as enable him to get a better price for his produce. We are forming primary societies to get improved implements and seeds so that they may be available to members. I may also tell for the information of the House that we are also starting what are called irrigation societies to enable the ryots to sink wells and instal engines for the benefit of members owning lands beside these wells. I am glad to say that the few experiments that have been carried on so far are yielding gratifying results and I hope they will spread even more. For the joint sale of members' produce also, we are taking some interest in the matter and we are granting loans for the construction of godowns or granaries to societies who concerned are in need of them. We are making the terms on which the societies could find money for these godowns as favourable as we could make them. 3-30 p.m.

" My hon. Friend, Mr Chavadi Subrahmanya Pillai, referred to many of the grave defects existing in several societies in the Co-operative department. I shall not say that I am blind to them I am and glad, Sir, that even non-official agency is alive to this fact It is a matter of great satisfaction to one and all that they are trying to tackle the problem in right

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earnest, more often by their own efforts than by efforts aided by Government. With these exertions I hope a better state of things might soon come into existence in these areas where things are not what they should be.

"My hon. Friend, Dr. Nagan Gowda, complained that here in India we grow much less wheat and much less rice per acre than in other countries in the world. His complaint has some justification. I find, for example, in Germany the yield of wheat is 20·4 per what they call hectare, that is, 2·4 acres and with their measure having 100 lb. as the unit, while in France it is 16, in Denmark 34·3 and in India it is 6·5. Because we are conscious of this drawback in our own country, the Agricultural Department has been organised to remove it.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar, complained of lapses in the Budget allotment under Transferred heads. I think his statement is true to a certain extent; but the causes for them are not all to be deprecated. If, for example, the lapse is due to the absence of an officer on leave or to his being substituted by one on a lesser pay, surely the hon. Member can have no reason to complain of; but one of the reasons has been the delay in starting the new paddy breeding station at Pattambi and the postponing to the next year of the opening of the agricultural middle school for Kerala. But I hope they will soon be set going in the coming year.

"As regards the Registration department, more than one Member referred to the need for reducing the registration fees. My hon. Friend, Sir A. P. Patro, also gave expression to the same sentiment. I have no doubt that such a suggestion coming as it does from such a quarter, will receive all the consideration it deserves.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Gopala Menon, referred to the decrease of revenue in the Industries department and to the decrease of profits in the commercial concerns run by that department. He also gave certain figures for which I am unable to find references. If perhaps he would explain to me later on how he came by those figures, it may enable me to answer him, but this much is a fact that the estimate figures show a decline in receipts. It is however partly due to the fact that a new rule has been introduced, by which the interest on the capital invested in these concerns should be deducted from what hitherto was being treated as the profit of these concerns. I am trying, Sir, to account for what is apparent on a perusal of the Budget figures and so I think my explanation is more or less germane.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Shetty, is naturally keen on having a school in his own district, an industrial school. The other place which is competing with his plan is Calicut in his neighbouring district. Let me say, Sir, that I have tried to acquaint myself with the conditions of both the districts and I hope that any arrangement we may come to will be found satisfactory to himself as well as to the people of the neighbouring district. There was one complaint made that the Industries department has not succeeded in establishing any pioneer industries in the province. I am well aware of the huge task that is in front of us and of how little we have been able to achieve so far; but that does not justify us in ignoring all that has been done in the past, and so discourage future attempts in the same direction. Have we not heard of the fact that aluminium industry has been introduced, and it is a successful concern? Have we not heard of the pencil factory, of the soap factory and other such concerns? Well, Sir, while some

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of the ventures have been successful, and there are others which have proved unsuccessful. But after all we never started with the idea that every endeavour of ours will prove a success."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" What about jam ? "

* The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" The hon. the Leader of the Opposition has perhaps been busy otherwise. Or he would have heard me when I said that there were some undertakings which have proved a failure. We do not start with the idea, as I said, that every endeavour is bound to be a success.

" My hon. Friend, Mr. Harisarvottama Rao, referred to some frantic efforts on our part to secure an assistant officer to our Director of Industries. May I assure him, Sir, that he need not be scared away that we have any such proposals on hand. There was one matter which was referred to by my hon. Friends Mr. Wood and Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar, namely, the great use which people were deriving by the boring and pumping plants which have been introduced. I was particularly pleased to hear Mr. Wood saying that they were worth while being extended to other areas even if the extension involved some loss."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Who are the manufacturers ? "

* The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, if my hon. Friends would kindly refer me to a place or places where the same instruments can be had for the purpose we have in view and that nearer home, surely his suggestion would be taken into consideration ; but, I should certainly, from the point of view of the cultivator, like to get it, even if it be from a foreign country, if thereby I am going to make the ryot less susceptible to the seasonal variations of the country.

" My hon. Friend, Mr. Tulasiram, referred at great length to the departments under my charge. I am expecting from him a note containing his definite and considered ideas in regard to all the matters that have been referred to by him, and I hope to receive it in the course of a short time. When that is in hand, I shall certainly not keep it idle with me but shall proceed to devote my earnest attention, because I take it he is speaking on a subject about which he knows a good deal.

" Sir, after we adjourned for lunch, my hon. Friend Mr. Basheer Ahmed had the courtesy to pass on to me a speech which he wanted to read, but which he could not read in the House for want of time ; and in view of the fact that you were good enough to say that the unread portion of it be handed over to the office . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Shall we have the same convention regarding the undelivered portion of speeches on the Treasury Bench. ? "

* The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" It was never my idea at the outset to take up much of the time of the House if I could help it. If it is so desired, that I may sit down now, I shall certainly do so, Sir. "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I only wanted to know whether it is his wish to have the same convention in the case of the undelivered portion of written speeches on the Treasury Bench to go to the Press. "

* The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I do not know, Sir, why the first ruling was given and under what circumstances. If perhaps I am

apprised of these things, I may be able to give my humble opinion in the matter.

"To continue, Sir, the hon. Member referred to one fact which I think it is important for the House to know and that is that some research work should be carried on in industrial machinery. I just wanted to say that that is a subject which is engaging my earnest consideration. The present Industrial Engineer is so much occupied with the work on hand that he has no time to devote any special attention to carry on this research work. After examining the matter and if I find that with the present staff it is not possible to start such work, I propose to ask my hon. Colleague, the Finance Member, and the House for additional grants for this and many other purposes which I hope the Council and my hon. Colleague will find their way to grant.

"With these words, I thank you, Sir, and the House for the patient hearing that has been given to me."

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Mr. President, Sir, I do not mean to follow my Colleagues in dealing with individual speeches that have been delivered on the floor of this House. On the other hand I mean to touch on the salient features that have been noticed by hon. Members who have spoken in this debate.

3-45 p.m. "To begin with, Sir, I am sure hon. Members will understand that this is what I may call a carrying on budget, that is, the Ministry now sitting on the Treasury Bench have taken over a budget as was left by my hon. Friends, the ex-Ministers; and we have not had time to examine policies which we can put forward for consideration before this House. As I said, I mean to take on hand the amendment of the Elementary Education Act and make it possible for us to have a more rapid expansion of elementary education than has hitherto been found possible. Hon. Members will understand that there has been no expansion of elementary education during the last five years. (Hear, hear) (A voice : 'Question'.) I shall explain further to my hon. Friend the ex-Minister for Education. (Mr. S. Sátyamurti : 'He is the ex-Minister, thank God'). Well, Sir, I had figures carefully prepared for one district in the matter of expansion of elementary education and I shall give them for what they are worth to my hon Friend Sir A. P. Patro. The figures are these. In the matter of elementary education we begin with 160,000 students in the first standard, and by the time the fourth standard is opened, we have only 30,000 students If that is the case, Sir, I would ask my hon. Friend in all earnestness whether he calls this expansion of elementary education." (Hear, hear.)

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P, PATRO :—"May I ask for further explanation, Sir?"

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I will explain still further, Sir. If a person is to be literate, he ought at least to have four years' education at a school, because if a student leaves school after the first standard, he is as illiterate as anybody else for the simple reason that he has not had enough training to remember what had been taught to him It might be my hon. Friend had to take over things as they had existed and had to think about it and he did not find it possible to do more. I do not blame him for that, but I only say that the principle of expansion of elementary education has

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not had its due effect, and I hope that whenever the time comes, be it long or short, for me to lay down my office, it will be possible for me to say that there has been real expansion. (Hear, hear.)

"In the matter of village roads, my hon. Friend, the Raja of Panagal, said that the provision made was too little. May I remind him, Sir, that the provision as found in the budget is just as he left it. But with the larger funds which will be available at the hands of the Provincial Government. . . ."

* The RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" As a matter of personal explanation, may I say this, Sir? What I said was that taking into consideration the fact that we have had a large surplus, I was rather surprised to see very little provision for village roads."

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" My hon. Friend, I am sure, will understand that the large surplus came long after the budget was finished in the Finance Department. Coming to the point, I may say this, that if I feel that to secure advancement it is the right way to improve village communications in this province, I will be the first man to fight my hon. Friend the Finance Member (hear, hear) and have a larger provision made for village roads. But, as I have said, these are all in an experimental stage, and Government sitting here ought not to fritter away funds merely because they have to show to the public that they are advancing. We must be sure of our ground before we put forward our schemes and spend money on them."

* Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"Is the question of village communications an experiment, Sir?"

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" It is an experiment in this sense, Sir. I feel that the funds that have been allotted to local bodies have not been spent in an adequate way." (Hear, hear.)

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" It mostly comes under Elections, probably." (Laughter.)

An hon. Member rose to interrupt the speech.

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I am sure my hon. Friend will have enough time to refer to these things, and I hope he will not interrupt me in the manner he is doing. Mr. President, with regard to the question of nominations I do feel as earnestly as my hon. Friends opposite that this question of nominations has not been dealt with as adequately as it ought to be (hear, hear), and this question cannot be tackled in a day. We shall soon have an amendment of the Local Boards Act and I hope it will be possible to make it impossible for such patronage to be exercised. (Voices: 'Hear, hear' and 'Quite right.') I for one have always felt, and said so many a time, that politicians ought not to use local boards as jumping grounds for seats in the Legislative Council (A voice: 'Quite true'), and I hope for the sake of my hon. Friends here, those belonging to the depressed classes, Muhammadans and Christians, that with regard to them, as they say it is impossible for them to find places on local bodies, I hope some scheme will be evolved by which they may have representation by election, or if that is not possible, by nomination.

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"I am afraid I will be trenching on a department which is under the control of my hon. Colleague the Excise Minister, but I would only like to point out this. My hon. Friend the Raja of Panagal stated that we came out of a party which was committed to prohibition."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"What about his party?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"That is what I am going to say, Sir. In the great Non-Brahman Confederation that was held at Madura and was presided over by my hon. Friend Sir A. P. Patro who was till recently the Minister for Excise, they solemnly passed a resolution that prohibition is their goal. If that is so, I would ask them in all earnestness what they did during the five years they were in office, during the five years he was in charge of the Excise department?"

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"Look into the records."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I think it will be for the convenience of hon. Members on the Treasury Bench if there is less disturbance to their speeches because they have got a time-limit within which they have to finish, and hon. Members of the House will have ample opportunities by way of token motions during the next ten days' sitting of the Council to discuss all these matters to their satisfaction. I would therefore request the Members of the House not to disturb the Members on the Treasury Bench by their interruptions."

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Sir, hon. Members opposite will rarely realise the difficulties of hon. Members on the Treasury Bench as much as my hon. Friend Sir A. P. Patro, while he was here as Minister for Education. We have to go forward carefully though slowly and in regard to local option also we shall have to see that this experiment is going to be a success. It is only by experiments that we can hope to reach that stage, it is only by experiments that the goal aimed at by all parties in this country can be reached.

"Some of my hon. Friends from the Andhra University area complained that there is no adequate provision made for the Andhra University. There again, Sir, I am sorry I have to differ from my hon. Friend who was Minister for Education. There again, as I said from that side of the House, the Minister had different principles to begin with. But when the Act finally came out of this House, it became exactly what he did not intend it to be."

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"The House wanted it."

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"That is what I am saying. He got it carried as the House wanted it. So, with regard to finding funds for the Andhra University, I may tell my hon. Friends opposite that I am even now willing, now that the provincial contribution has been remitted, to give them adequate provision so that the Andhra University might become a centre of culture for the Andhras in the Andhra Desh. (Hear, hear.)

"Some of my friends referred to grants to aided schools. I am sure they will realize, as even my hon. Friend who was here before me realized that the future of secondary education in this country depends largely on aided schools and private management. And when such is the case, I am sure, Sir, hon. Members opposite will agree with me that we must have a revised Grant-in-Aid Code (hear, hear) before we can proceed on sound

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lines acceptable to Members on both sides of this House. (A voice: 'Quick please.') I hope my hon. Friend will have no reason to complain because I am coming to the end of my speech. (A voice: 'He wanted you to be quick with the Grant-in-Aid Code amendment.') With regard to the Grant-in-Aid Code, Sir, I may say this, that I am trying to have it amended as soon as possible, but I am sure hon. Members will realize that it is not as easy a matter as they imagine, and it will take time before we can bring it up in a shape acceptable to all parties. Now, I have nearly done, Sir. I only mean to deal with the District Municipalities Act. That again is one that has got to be amended, and I hope hon. Members will soon have before them an amending Bill. Already my hon. Friend the Raja Sahib had a Bill prepared which in many respects is acceptable to me as well, and I hope that the Bill will soon be introduced into the House. (Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: 'What about the Corporation Act?') Hon. Members ask what about the Corporation Act. That again perhaps needs amendment, but there are too many legislative measures as I have already mentioned, and I hope that I shall also be able to deal with the City Municipal Act.

"Finally, Sir, I mean to say only one word because my hon. Friend forgot to mention it before he sat down, and it is this. My hon. Friend has under consideration the amendment of the Hindu Religious Endowments Act, and I hope that the Bill that will be introduced by him at the next meeting will be acceptable not only to this side of the House, but also to the other. With these few words let me, through you, Mr. President, thank all hon. Members for the great kindness and courtesy shown to the Members on the Treasury Bench." 4 p.m.

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, I should just like to say one or two words with regard to the criticisms that have been advanced by hon. Members with regard to the departments under my charge. My hon. Friend Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar and some others brought to the notice of the Government that something should be done to improve the status and pay of the midwives. With regard to the improvement of the pay of the midwives, I think it is a question more for the municipalities and local boards. As regards the status, I may remind the hon. House that about this time last year a Bill was passed—the Nurses and Midwives Registration Bill—by means of which we have given a distinct status to those who have qualified themselves as midwives. Not only that, we have prescribed certain qualifications by which the indigenous midwives known as dhais might be brought under the scope of the Act.

"It has been said that in the Jails Department the expenditure has been on the increase. I would like to take the hon. Members of this House through certain figures.

"In 1923-24 the expenditure under 'Jails' was Rs. 31,04,447; in 1924-25 it was Rs. 29,38,657; in 1925-26 it was Rs. 30,01,333; in the revised estimates, 1926-27, it was Rs. 29,76,000 and in the budget estimate for 1927-28 it is Rs. 31,51,700.

"It will be seen from these figures that the expenditure under 'Jails' is not much on the increase. It is more or less on the same level. From the revised estimates for 1926-27 and the budget estimate for 1927-28, the figures relating to Reformatory and Certified schools, Rs. 95,800 and

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Rs. 1,09,400 respectively, have to be excluded. These figures were not included in the Jails budget in the previous years. These items have been brought under the Jails budget owing to the change recently made, namely, the transfer of the Reformatory and the Certified schools from the control of the Director of Public Instruction to that of the Inspector-General of Prisons. Besides that, Sir, I should also like to point out that on the receipts side in 1923-24, we have got about Rs 6,46,256 ; in 1924-25, Rs. 7,58,750 ; in 1925-26, Rs. 8,98,741 ; and in 1926-27, Rs. 8,29,500 ; and again, in the budget estimate for 1927-28 we have got Rs. 8,85,600. It will be seen from these figures that there has been a large increase in the receipts of the Jails department. These receipts are due largely to the activities of the Jail Manufacturing Departments as the result of the recent recommendations made by the Jail Industries Committee. I should like to say, Sir, that in order that we might not throw the whole burden of maintaining jails upon the taxpayer, we have introduced in almost every jail some kind of jail industry or other. And it is from these that we have got much of the income about which I have quoted figures just now. In dealing with the question of Jail industries, I may say that it is not the intention of the Government to compete with private enterprise in any way.

" We have, I think, issued a Government Order to that effect, and our only object is to see that those who are in jails are taught some kind of industry or other and at the same time lessen the burden of taxation upon the taxpayers. Besides this, Sir, in these civilized days, even jails have to be maintained on progressive lines. They have got amenities of their own. For these reasons, we have to spend every year something in order that we might make the lives of these unfortunate people as happy as we possibly can. My hon. Friend, Mr. Madhavan Nayar, has drawn the attention of Government to the state of health of M. P. Narayana Menon. I understand from the report that I have just now received that he was 127 lb. when he was admitted from the Central Jail to the Penitentiary and now he is 120 lb. There has been variations of rise and fall in his weight for the last three years, the lowest being 120 lb. Of course, about six months ago there was a drop in his weight to 102 lb. but he has carefully been given medical attention and I am glad that the First Physician of the General Hospital thinks that the present health of the prisoner is excellent. It has been brought to the notice of the Government that certain extras should be given to him in the matter of dietary and also that he has been suffering from some kind of throat trouble and that he should be attended to. I shall bring these to the notice of the authorities. I have no doubt that he is being attended to carefully. As far as we have information at present, his state of health is excellent.

" A general complaint against the Forest department is that there is a small amount of revenue. I should just like to remind hon. Members that Government have taken seriously into consideration the question of making forest a revenue-producing department ever since we have engaged Mr. Martin as Chief Forest Engineer about three or four years ago. We have given effect to various new schemes of exploitation and we have spent and have to spend a lot of money in order that we might carry on these schemes and the ultimate object of Government is that these forests should be made to pay considerable amount of income. We have no doubt whatever that some of these new schemes which have been undertaken by Government are

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showing signs of progress. I think my attention has been called to the fact that some extra grazing facilities should be given in order to counteract the seasonal conditions in certain districts. With regard to that, I may draw the attention of hon. Members to sections 182, 183 and 184 of the Madras Famine Code which permit Collectors of districts to allow free grazing of cattle in open areas and close reserves and, in reply to a question, the hon. the Revenue Member said yesterday morning that the attention of the Collectors of these districts where the season has been bad has been drawn to these provisions.

"Then, Sir, the question has been raised as to what we have been doing in order to throw out the reserved forests to be assigned for cultivation. I understand that, in 1925-26, 2,792 acres have been given for such assignment. A question has been asked as to what has been done with regard to the forest panchayats. I have just now learnt from the Chief Conservator of Forests that at the end of December 2,300 square miles have been handed over to forest panchayats and at the end of this month 300 more square miles will be handed over to them. I hope, before the end of the year 1927, the total area of about 4,000 square miles will be administered by the forest panchayats.

"With regard to the depressed classes, several hon. Members have spoken of the various disabilities. I may tell them that Government are aware of these disabilities and are trying to do all that they possibly can in order to assist them. One or two hon. Members have said that we ought to allot more money for the depressed classes. I should just like to say that in the year 1921, when we first opened the Labour Department, we spent only 80,000 rupees and in the present budget we have allotted about 10 lakhs of rupees for the Labour Department. So hon. Members will see that we are following a policy by means of which something substantial is being done in order to improve the condition of the depressed classes. A question has also been raised as to how many districts have been brought under the Labour Department. I find that we have already brought thirteen districts under the Labour Department and in the year to come we hope to bring two more districts. Further, it has been said that it is the duty of the Government to see that no impediments are placed in the way of the members of the depressed classes having seats in all representative institutions and I entirely agree with the hon. Members who have said that. It is the intention of the Government to assist them in that object and I may say that hon. Members of the depressed classes will remember that only a few months ago Government have nominated one of their members to the highest Legislature in the land, namely, the Indian Legislative Assembly.

"A grave charge has been laid upon the Mappilla Andaman Colonization Scheme by my hon. Friend, Mr. Syed Ibrahim Sahib. He said that the object of Government in sending these Mappilla prisoners to the Andamans is to convert them to Christianity and for that purpose they have appointed what he called Salvation Army tahsildars. I can deny the charge that has been made by the hon. Member. Government have no such intention whatever and I have tried to find out the names of the tahsildars and officers who have gone to the Andamans from Madras. I find that the first officer who went there in 1923 was Mr. Abraham (a Christian) who came away in 1923. (A voice: 'Why.') He was sent there for certain duty; he did it and came away. Then Mr. Kunhiraman Nayar, a Hindu, was sent there

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afterwards and he returned in 1925. From 1923, we have got Mr. Govindan, a Hindu, as the tahsildar working there Therefore, there is no meaning in saying that the tahsildar whom we have sent belongs to the Salvation Army. I therefore totally deny the charge made by the hon. Member, Mr. Syed Ibrahim Sahib."

*The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Mr. President, Sir, I feel I must be very brief. I only wish to make a few observations upon the general attitude of the House towards the Members of the Reserved Half in regard to the action which they have taken or not taken on the votes of this Council. I suppose all Members of the House are perfectly well aware that it is not in the power of the Provincial Government to change the constitution. In that constitution the Reserved Half is responsible for the administration of Reserved subjects. They have not got any party in the House on whose votes they can rely and if they are to be bound by any vote of the House as mandatory, they will be handicapped in discharging their responsibilities. I will briefly illustrate what I have in my mind by an example. Suppose this Land Revenue Settlement Bill which has received so much disapproval were passed into a law with a provision that any increase of assessment should be carried by means of a Taxation Bill passed by the Council, and then suppose the Reserved Half were to bring in such a Bill in respect of any particular district and this Council rejected it, what would be the position of the Reserved Half? If the Governor certified it, that would only give yet another occasion for the complaint and accusation that we were flouting the Council and so forth. On the other hand, if it were a Ministry who introduced the Bill, they would, on its rejection, resign and the other side would have to take office and find the money. This is not possible in the case of the Reserved side. It is not because of wrongheadedness on our part that we do not follow the votes of the House on every occasion, but because we have to discharge our own responsibilities and cannot be guided by the votes of the House on every occasion. I am not suggesting that this system is a right one and should not be changed. (Hear, hear.) I am not suggesting it is either right or wrong. As I said, that is not the province of the Local Government. I am only commenting on the views and language of Members who spoke about the extraordinary, perverse and wrongheaded way in which we of the Reserved Half are discharging our responsibilities instead of being bound by the votes of the House.

" The next topic which I noted to which one of the Members referred was that the rate of Indianization was not fast.

4-15 p.m. " I am rather surprised that some of those remarks came from Members who must be as old as myself, and those old as myself must be able to remember the time when the number of Indians in the services was very few indeed. I do not think that in any Provincial Service now you will find any but Indians, and in the Imperial Services, which by the way are not under the control of this Government in the matter of recruitment, the rate of Indianization has been recently laid down on the recommendations of the Lee Commission which have been accepted by the Secretary of State, and surely every one of us must agree that it is progressing at a rate (Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti : ' A snail '), perhaps it is not quite as fast as some of us wish but it is as fast as we can very well expect, having regard to the claims of those already in the services. I will not go into further details on the subject, as I have a suspicion that the point was raised merely as a political criticism on the preceding Ministry.

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"The next point which I have noted on my list is the criticism that there is not enough money provided for minor irrigation works. We have during the current year and for the next year provided four lakhs more than previously. I admit that I am not satisfied with the allotment. But I should like the House to remember that if you retrench a department and reduce expenditure as was done in recent years it is not possible in a year or two to work it up again to the past standard of expenditure, leave alone a higher standard. We are giving the subject unremitting attention, and we hope that in a year or two we will be able to further increase the grant and do the work that is undoubtedly necessary in many districts.

"The next question I would like to refer to is rather a difficult one to explain, and that is the revenue aspect of what is known as the inclusion fee and the inducement fee in the Godavari and Kistna deltas. These have become local current expressions and give rise to a certain amount of misapprehension. What is called an inducement fee is not a fee at all. It arose in this manner, that at the last settlement, that is, in 1896 or 1897, when it was proposed to assess certain lands, which were ordinarily irrigated as wet, objections were raised and it was asked that they should be kept as dry. Well, the Government of that day decided that the land might be treated as dry and that it should be charged as water rate the difference between wet and dry plus rupee one. That one rupee is not collected as anything but as a water rate No doubt it was an inducement to the ryot to apply for registration as wet, when he would not have to pay the rupee extra. The inclusion fee, on the other hand, was part of a scheme by which a greater area in the delta could be brought under irrigation, if improvements were made in remodelling the channels and in improving the drainage. It was suggested – I do not know how the suggestion emanated—that if a fee of Rs. 25 per acre for dry lands was paid, the Government would have funds to carry out those works. It was then that an offer was made that the lands would be included in the ayacut if this fee was paid. A condition was made at the same time that in the case of lands which were not irrigated by free flow, their level should be reduced so as to enable them to be irrigated by free flow. The reason for this condition was that such lands were being irrigated by cross-bunding the channels to the detriment of holders of lands lower down. The consequence of that was that some of the lands that could not be irrigated by opening the channels, as they were owned by cultivators lower down, got the necessary water. Where this inclusion fee has been paid, the lands have been transferred to wet, wherever the lowering of the level has been carried out, and in that case, of course, the extra amount paid as water rate automatically has disappeared. In cases where the lowering of the level has not been done, the change has not been carried out. Of course, it is open to the ryot at any time to lower the level and have the change made. There were some other minor conditions which it would take long to go into now, but I have stated the main position.

"The other matters referred to by hon. Members were all particular cases, and, so far as I am concerned, as I fortunately or unfortunately am the first Member to move for a detailed grant and will therefore have an opportunity of receiving the criticisms of the House for the full period of time available, I will not go into these cases now.

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"I only wish to add that I must deny the accusation made by an hon. Gentleman, I think the Member from Trichinopoly, that Government has not kept their promise in the matter of supplying trucks for the removal of sand. The Government did not promise to supply trucks without limit for whatever amount of sand that had to be cleared. What they said at the time when the effect of the floods was greatly felt was that Government would supply free of charge whatever trucks they had in stock and that has been done. I do not know any reason why the Government should go on supplying trucks to the end of time. However, that was not the promise, and what was promised free of charge has been done."

* The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Mr. President, Sir, there are two varieties of criticism with which I propose to deal, one of an entirely unhelpful and destructive character and the other constructive and helpful. In the former category, I am obliged to include, the random, the vague, the wild, the uninstructed suggestions that have been made from a certain quarter of this House in regard to the Mettur scheme, fortified as that suggestion has been, by a move to cut out the whole of the demand of one crore for Mettur. Sir, it has been my misfortune to encounter from the very moment when the Mettur and the Pykara projects were initiated the unmitigated and relentless opposition of a particular group. It was suggested that the Pykara scheme was going to be the grave of this province's finance; it was suggested that that scheme was going to be a Back-bay muddle even before it was started, and, from first to last, attempts have been made to destroy the scheme at its very inception. Let me, for the benefit of this House, assure the hon. Members that I am as keen and as alive as any Member of this House could be, to the possibilities of industrial and other expansion in this country. I am a firm believer in industrialization consonant with the spirit and the traditions of this country. I for one am convinced that so far as the conditions of this Presidency are concerned, and having regard especially to the fact that our coal supply is not indigenous but has to be got from Bihar and Bengal in the development of the vast potentialities in this Presidency, in the development of natural power sources like Papanasam, like Pykara, like Kolab in the Vizagapatam district, in such development lies the future of this country. Keeping that point of view in mind, this Government cancelled the concessions to certain concessionnaires and took back all those concessions into their own hands, remembering that such public utility services are best developed by the Government as a trustee for the people. Therefore, the concessions having been bought back from certain concessionnaires, an attempt has been made, a slow, a laborious, a difficult attempt has been made to push on a project. What is its present position to-day? In spite of leader after leader in a particular journal, which I shall not dignify by naming, in spite of leader after leader in that newspaper from the beginning condemning the scheme, I am in a position to announce to this House to-day that the South Indian Railway has promised to take, subject to certain further arrangements and adjustments being entered into, 50 per cent of the total power output from the Pykara project (hear, hear), to have a ghat line from Trichinopoly to Madura, a line from Dindigul to Erode and a third line as well. Sir, in addition to that, the hon. Member from Coimbatore, Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar, who is conversant with the details of the scheme, will be able to tell the House that 25 per cent of the other power that is producible by the Pykara scheme

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has already been agreed to be taken up by consumers of power like the mills and factory-owners and other industrialists in Coimbatore and proximate areas. The result, therefore, is that of the total power producible by the Pykara scheme 75 per cent has been agreed to be taken up. And inasmuch as further doubts prevailed and further hesitations were aroused, and further dogmas were asserted that the scheme was going to be a Back-bay muddle, we appointed a committee, and that committee has reported; and what is its report? It has reported that the Government can with equanimity, can with confidence, proceed to initiate the scheme relying on the possibility of a certain market for the output. Now, Sir, the electrification arising out of the Pykara scheme will, in my opinion, not only benefit the large factory owners, will, in my opinion, not only benefit the big factories and large conglomerations of labour and capital, but also the small industrialist, pardon me, Mr. President, when I say that I visualise a future in which the cottage industries linked one with the other will utilize this output of power for the purpose of avoiding those disagreeable features which disfigure factory life in Europe and America. How better can you do it than by properly developing and utilizing cheap power which is available to us? In this attempt, Sir, I have received nothing but kindness and sympathy from one section, and nothing but hostility, nothing but carping criticism, nothing but destructive tactics from another section of this House. And I leave it to the House to decide whether the attempt is one which the Government is entitled to initiate and carry on in spite of the obstacles and handicaps.

"Now, Sir, there is one more matter which I desire to say with regard to the Pykara scheme and that is this. With regard to the Pykara scheme and connected schemes, a hydro-electric survey has been going on for a number of years. Mr. Forbes, a very distinguished Engineer of Mysore, who is responsible for the inauguration of that great scheme formulated by Capt. Lotbiniere under the guidance of Sir Seshadri Ayyar in Mysore, has reported to us that there is no tract of country in India so well suited as the Madras Presidency, both in the Northern Circars and in the southern tracts, for the development and utilization of cheap power. Now, what are the centres? Papanasam in the Tinnevelly district, with which I shall deal later on and about which the hon. Member from Tinnevelly, Mr. Kumaraswami Reddiyar, spoke in a manner which was not, I regret to say, very helpful; Pykara; another water-power centre; and Kolab in the Vizagapatam district. These can satisfy many requirements. I shall name some. The Pykara scheme, if properly developed, can produce power adequate enough—and nature has been kind to us in this respect—for the utilization by the rich cotton districts like Coimbatore and other districts in the south, and the power can be taken to Trichinopoly, where a great many industrial concerns have been started, and it can be taken to Madura. At one time, it was thought that the power could be taken to Madras, but the distance is hindering us from such a development. That is one aspect of the scheme.

"Hon. Members like Mr. Tulasiram are aware that adjunct to Papanasam lie the black cotton districts of Madura and Tinnevelly and the factories that are now working are using coal. The Papanasam scheme, if developed, will not only serve the cotton districts but will also be the nucleus for starting the paper industry, because at the back of Papanasam are some of those forests which produce very best pulp possible needed 4-30 p.m.

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for the production of paper, the paper on which the forest administration reports of last year were printed. The new railway will go through Raipur-Vizagapatam to Central Provinces and its potentialities are great. The electrification of the railway and other industries including the development of the fauxite manganese and aluminium industries, are some of the possibilities that we may reckon on. We have not started all the three at once because of our financial limitations. Because we have a market ready to hand in Pykara, we started the Pykara scheme. Assuming that there are mistakes committed with regard to it and that expert after expert has blundered, surely, Mr. President, it is open to this House to force Government to get other men to correct these mistakes, and to encourage and stimulate these enterprises. Let us not say that here is a Back-bay muddle, it is bound to be given up, so much money should not be spent. I trust, Mr. President, that this House will not listen for a moment to such counsels, I do not say, of despair but of destructive and malignant criticism.

"I now deal with the Cauvery-Mettur project. The position with regard to this project is this. This project was started with two ideas. The first and foremost idea was that it was to conserve the water which was running to waste and to safeguard the existing one million acres of the Tanjore district, so as to provide against the catastrophes which are not uncommon in a district with a river like the Cauvery. If it was asked why it was started first, it was for the simple reason that years ago this was the first project which engaged the attention of the Government as it engaged the attention of the old kings of Tanjore. After sixty years the Government began investigating and reinvestigating, pondering and re-pondering over that scheme. It was held up because the Mysore Government and the Madras Government could not come to an agreeable termination of the disputes between them. From the years 1923-24, constant conferences took place, and thanks to the statesmanship of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore and thanks to the devoted services of Messrs. Ramalinga Ayyar and Narasimha Ayyangar, an agreement was come to and it became possible to develop the Cauvery-Mettur project. Then were raised certain questions as to what areas should be served and what we should do in this matter. We have to rely upon certain engineering experts. There was a committee appointed, in which Dr. Subbarayan was a member, and he with the eloquence and vigour to which we have become accustomed, gave full vent to his ideas that Salem should be served. The committee passed some resolutions which we sent to the engineers. The engineers said that as an engineering problem, on account of the necessity for terracing which would be inevitable if the project was to go forward, it was not worth while making experiments of that kind in Sālem, and if we wanted to benefit Salem we must take up some other scheme. So far as Coimbatore is concerned, the case is different. It is really a question of how much the people are prepared to pay. And so far as this matter is concerned, I must admit that there is a growing volume of opinion in this House, which I do not say I share, but which I wholly appreciate and sympathise with, namely, that this water ought not to be the privilege, and the appanage, of one district alone (hear, hear) and that, if possible, the districts of Coimbatore, Salem and Trichinopoly should get the benefit of it. I cannot decide it finally; my friend, Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar, cannot decide it finally. It has to be decided by persons qualified for the purpose. Very recently, the Government of India have issued an order, namely, if local Governments feel or entertain any doubt about

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matters of fundamental importance relating to the carrying out of irrigation policy, they would constitute a committee composed of experts from other provinces who will advise us in the matter. Well, in response to what has fallen from certain hon. Members of this House, I wish to do this. I shall initiate discussion at once amongst my hon. Colleagues and consider the question whether this matter which is of such importance to many members of this House and is apparently exercising their minds very much should not be referred to that or some other body of advisers. If the committee arrives at some conclusion, then our responsibility is at an end. So far as the Mettur project is concerned, many caustic observations were made. It has been suggested that the personnel ought to be Indianized. The person in charge of the administration is an Indian and is sufficiently alive to the paramount importance of the consideration. I am willing to encounter criticism of that kind from all quarters of the House. But to say that there should be no money given, that six crores of rupees ought not to be spent, that the project should not be carried on until some other investigations are undertaken is puerile, Mr. President, according to my humble submission.

"I have been accused of being partial to one or two districts. The position with regard to the Ceded districts was put very succinctly and very forcibly by certain hon. Members. Let me, very shortly, within the time at my disposal, re-state my views on the matter which have been already stated on the floor of the House. I realize that it is the paramount duty of the State not to give money or remit revenue on encountering a famine, but according to the old adage adopt the policy of 'Prevention is better than cure.' Our experts' advice was that the most profitable site for the location of the Ceded districts reservoir is on the borders of His Exalted Highness the Nizam's territory and the British territory. His Exalted Highness had very many avocations and preoccupations and we could not get any replies to our letters for a long time. The result has been placed before the House more than once. But thanks to the deliberations of a very capable Committee—I shall not appear to be flattering my hon. Colleagues—thanks to the skill, thanks to the engineering equipment and thanks to the ready sympathy which my hon. Friend, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, possesses in such an abundant degree, the committee has recommended, if it is possible, to start a reservoir on the borders of the Bombay and Madras Presidencies. It is for the investigation of that site that this Rs. 25,000 has been included in the budget. It is not merely as an eye-wash, it is not for the purpose of pretending that we are going to do some work in the Ceded districts which we are not earnestly endeavouring to do. It is for the purpose of investigating the possibilities of a site for starting work on the borders of Bombay and Madras where there will be no such difficulty as correspondence and negotiation with any Indian State. The Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee has also made several valuable suggestions as to other directions in which irrigation facilities may be given. They have suggested the examination of certain other irrigation schemes though small, but according to them of much value. Our difficulty in the past thirty or forty years has been that certain schemes started there have, on account of the porosity of the soil or inadequacy of rainfall, have failed. The Committee which went into the pros and cons of the problem have put forward certain resolutions which I shall deal with in the course of the detailed debate on the detailed irrigation budget.

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"Now turning to the Tuticorin Harbour and the Papanasam scheme. The hon. Member from Tinnevelly, like some other hon. Members, suggested that a feather has not been added to my cap. I do not wear a cap and therefore I do not need any feather. In regard to the Tuticorin Harbour, the position is this In 1922, the Government sent out an order, asking the various peoples in Tuticorin, including the Commercial interests, to make up their mind whether they wanted a particular harbour development and they also warned the people of Tuticorin that in order to get a harbour of that description they would have immediately to raise the port dues from the then standard to 6 annas, 9 annas and later on to As. 11-3. The people of Tuticorin through their accredited representatives assented. At that. time, there was a gentleman who was able to enthuse the people of Tuticorin over the possibilities of this harbour, *in posse* if not *in esse*. Then the Tuticorin Port Trust, the Tuticorin Chamber of Commerce and other interests were willing to go on with the scheme. That was in 1923. The scheme was started and there has not been a single deviation in the details of that scheme from the year 1923 to this year. But at the end of 1926 our dredger encountered a new feature, namely, in the course of dredging the harbour at a depth beyond 24 feet we met with what was called sandstone conglomerate in addition to coral and we had to revise the estimate in order to get other dredgers capable of overcoming that difficulty. And this was estimated to cost 27 lakhs extra. When this matter was communicated to the people they said 'We do not want the harbour.' The Government have now resolved to tell the Tuticorin people that if they are not satisfied with the experts they could have some other experts and they (the Government) will also address the Government of India to send their experts and if after examination they do not want the harbour the Government are prepared to stop further progress. Further details will come up in the detailed examination of the budget and I shall have more to say then.

"The hon. Member from Tinnevelly spoke of the Papanasam project. I adhere to what I have said. Nobody is more alive than Government to the fact that Papanasam affords an ideal field for hydro electrification and for that purpose we are exploiting the possibilities of the paper industry and the possibility of cotton mills in the locality giving us help by purchasing the power. One last word on this scheme. Hon. Members forget that all these schemes are financed out of loans. Hon. Members will realise that in the case of the Pykara scheme and the Mettur scheme, the Government of India have said that repayment would not be demanded until the proposition became a paying one (Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar: 'What about interest?') Let me reply to what has fallen from Mr. Krishnan Nayar. He talks of interest, and another hon. Member talked of surcharging me or the Members of the Government with the cost of the project. Let me remind hon. Members of this House that it was by a unanimous resolution of the House that the Mettur project was started, and let me say that if the Irrigation Bill had not been carried it was due as much to Mr. Krishnan Nayar as to anybody else and that it is not up to him or any one else holding his views to ask for surcharging me with the six crores. Unfortunately, I am not able to pay this, nor do I think any of my hon. Colleagues are. (A voice: 'What about the new Irrigation law?'). This was emphasized by me before and also to-day. It happens that in the Tanjore district, representative after representative rose from his seat and said that they would pay not only this water-rate but double the water-rate. Here is

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Mr. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar, there is Mr. Rajappa coming from the district which stands to derive the advantages of the project and we. So far as Mettur is concerned, if in any place, we have succeeded in overcoming the difficulties of irrigation law, it is in Mettur because knowing the possibilities of the Irrigation law, the Board of Revenue conducted an investigation to find out from the people of the locality whether they were willing to pay the enhanced rate. What is the legal difficulty? 4-45 p.m.

"The legal difficulty arising from the want of an irrigation law is simply and solely due to this: that without certain sections of the projected irrigation law you cannot enforce payment of water-rate above a certain minimum. If the people are willing to pay it, there is an end of the matter. It may not commend itself to the hon. Member for Malabar. But the hon. Member for Malabar will read the proceedings of the House and will learn to be consistent and not merely destructively to criticize.

"As regards the question of separation of judicial and executive functions, I have said more than once that the matter is entirely in the hands of the Government of India at the present moment. They have been reminded more than once about the necessity for coming to a prompt decision.

"A certain question was put to me about the punitive police in Gooty. It was occasioned by the fact that two factions were warring with each other. If the Government and the local authorities are convinced that the conflict has ceased and that the people have buried their hatchets, there is no doubt that the local authorities will reconsider the matter. The Government also will consider the matter if there is no need for keeping up a certain system which was necessitated only by the warring factions.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Bikkinna Venkataratnam, has put before me certain suggestions regarding the Polavaram project. He has suggested that provision should be made for navigating it by constructing a lock above. I propose to refer the matter to the authorities concerned and if it can be done I shall see that it is done since a navigable canal is far better than an unnavigable one.

"With a great deal of the criticisms of Mr. C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar, I agree. Those are matters of detail and I am sure he will have an opportunity of putting forward his point of view when we come to the detailed discussion of the matter.

"Now, about the Indianization of the police suggested by my hon. Friend, Mr. Satyamurti, I may say that I have been in charge of the Police and the Criminal Intelligence Department. In a particular branch there was no Indian. As a matter of fact, I may tell him that one of the most valued members of the Criminal Intelligence Department is a Muhammadan gentleman whose services have been availed of not only by this Government but by the Government of India as well, on many occasions. I realize the importance of what he said and I assure him that when an occasion arises, Indianization not only of the ordinary police but all branches of the Criminal Intelligence Department also will be considered. (Cries of 'Cooum.')

"As to the Cooum, I do not think that anybody is more keen than myself to improve the Cooum. I do not live near the Cooum, but unfortunately His Excellency the Governor does (laughter) and, I dare say, he is

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convinced by almost physical contact with the Cooum of the necessity for improving it. But the position is this. As a temporary measure, the mouth was kept open some time ago. There were certian pourparlers between the then President of the Corporation and now Leader of the Opposition and a certain Member of the Government, and the Corporation was at one time inclined to contribute one-third of the cost of the improvement of the Cooum. Now, my hon. Friends who have said many hard things regarding sums spent on the Metropolitan as opposed to mufassal schemes will no doubt have something to say if the whole of the expenses for improving the Cooum is to be met from provincial finances. I am sure some portion of the Corporation finances should also be given to that. Quite apart from that I am free to say that the matter of keeping the Cooum at least tolerably neat and clean is one which will engage the attention of the Government and I shall give the matter my attention. For the information of the House, I may add that there have been committees which have reported on the matter and there have been alternative schemes prepared, one for 8 lakhs and the other for 13 lakhs. It will be seen therefore that it is practically a question of financing this scheme either by the Government alone or with the aid of the Corporation finances. In saying this, let me not be understood as throwing cold water on the scheme. If the Corporation has no money immediately at its disposal, it may at least make provision for what may be called a sinking fund and the Government will no doubt be able to consider it.

" Mr. President, I have already taken more than the time allotted to me. Many important subjects have been referred to by hon. Members and I have made a note of them. If occasion arises, I shall refer to them in the detailed discussion. It appeared to be peremptorily necessary that certain misconceptions should be cleared, if possible, once for all."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—' Mr. President, before I refer to the various criticisms levelled against the budget, perhaps I may be allowed to acknowledge the compliments which have been paid by different sections of the House, not I admit relating to the matter contained in the budget, but to its form. I am in no wise responsible for its merits in this respect. It has been the constant endeavour of Mr. Boag and his assistants to attempt to anticipate points on which doubt or difficulty is likely to arise and to see that in such cases as far as possible a clear presentation of the budget figures is placed before the House.

" Even if I were to use all the time at my disposal, Sir, it would not suffice to cover more than a mere fraction of the ground traversed in the course of the last three days. Therefore, I must briefly pass over the political matters which were brought into our discussion.

" I notice that one or two of our new Members—I think Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao is one—spent some time in explaining to us that the conditions under which we discussed the budget were very different from those under which the budget is discussed in the House of Commons. May I assure the hon. Member and others who spoke in the same strain that some of us have sat here for three years and some of us for six years and yet we are perfectly familiar with the contents of this volume (Council Manual) in which the constitution to which he referred is set out much more fully and, if I may say so, more accurately than by him. (Laughter.)

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"Again, I have not the time to deal with the impassioned exordium of the speech of the hon. the Member for the University in which he told us how he will deal with the Statutory Commission of 1929 when it appears in Madras. I may merely say that to me, the answer which he proposes to give to that Commission when it appears here, seems to be a somewhat inadequate reply to a plain question, 'What have you done to enable this Province to make use of the opportunities which were given it in 1920'. (Cries of 'Everything in our power'.) May I ask that I be not interrupted? I have not interrupted anybody during these three days as I was saying, I think it a somewhat inadequate answer to the question. 'What have you done to help this Province to utilize the opportunities which were given to it in 1920, and to establish a claim that it is fitted for further advance.' Possibly the hon Member will be able to devise a more adequate reply by 1929. (Mr. S. Satyamurti: 'Not with your help.')

"Nor can I possibly refer to the various criticisms of another category within the time at my disposal. But I may be allowed to refer to the contribution made by Mr. Gopala Menon whose speech contained many thoughtful and thought-provoking points. He will excuse me if I do not attempt to deal with it now, because I think it deserves fuller consideration, and I am not sure that really I have a correct transcript of his speech which contained a good many complicated points. I might also refer to the speech of the Raja of Panagal. If I do not attempt to deal with it, it is because while it seems to be a thoughtful contribution to the question as to what we should do if certain additional funds are placed at our disposal, it hardly comes before us now, but what we have to discuss now is the budget as presented before the House for 1927–28.

"Perhaps I might just glance at the question which has been raised once or twice whether this is a deficit budget. Now, I do not wish in dealing with this question to use any technical language. But taking the question plainly, if I were asked what a deficit budget was, I would say that it was a budget which, for carrying out the revenue purposes of the year to which it belonged, necessitated either borrowing or trenching upon revenues which had not accrued. Now, in that sense the budget before the House is not a deficit budget. It is perfectly true that it proposes to spend a considerable sum in excess of the actual revenues which are proposed to be collected next year. But it does not propose to meet that excess by borrowing or by throwing a burden on future years. It simply proposes to utilize for the purpose funds which we have in hand, the accumulated surplus of the two preceding years. In so doing, what is really happening is that we are utilizing funds which were provided in those two years for certain purposes, but in respect of which short expenditure occurred; for the very same purposes, deferred to the year to come.

"We have had many references to the announcement made in the budget by the Finance Member of the Government of India as regards the possible remission of the balance of our provincial contributions—116 lakhs recurring and 49 lakhs non-recurring for this year. But if I may say so, I am rather surprised at the unanimity with which Members of the House seem to think that the announcement has already been confirmed and that the amount has come to hand. We are still engaged in hunting the financial hare which has been let loose, and there is no lack of *chefs* to tell us how to cook it; but I would remind the House of the old adage of the cookery

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books that you must catch your hare before you cook it. It is, I am glad to think, fairly clear that a great majority of the Members of this House are determined that, so far as they are concerned, the hunt will be continued to a finish.

5 p.m. "It is perfectly true that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition and his Deputy were not so enthusiastic about joining the hunt as some other hon. Members of his party. But I feel sure that they will pluck up courage and spirit and be in at the finish.

"I may now call attention to the fact that even after the expenditure which is proposed in the budget we shall have a balance of about Rs. 40 lakhs and one or two questions which were asked as to why this sum should not also be regarded as free for immediate expenditure. While dealing with the present seasonal conditions, I attempted to explain to the House what our resources were for dealing with any possible contingencies. I referred then to our Famine Relief fund as one of our sheet anchors in regard to this matter. I referred also to this sum of Rs. 40 lakhs from which we will be able to draw, if found to be necessary. For the present I cannot regard this sum as available for expenditure. It may be that the situation will develop more unfavourably than is at present expected. So long as there is a possibility of this kind, we must retain funds in hand in order to meet emergencies. Further after all, a sum of Rs. 40 lakhs is not a very large one for a province of which the income as budgeted for is somewhere in the neighbourhood of 17 crores of rupees, to carry as an opening and closing balance. It does not allow very much margin even in ordinary circumstances, for emergency expenditure such as we know too frequently arises. Conditions, I trust and hope, will alter entirely for the better by the end of the first month of the next monsoon, but until that has occurred I fear I must ask this House to regard Rs. 40 lakhs as reserved for the object to which I have referred.

"My hon. Colleagues, the Ministers, have dealt with the administrative aspects of the activities and developments under their charge. Several questions regarding those activities have been addressed to me direct with reference to the Agricultural Department and various other departments. I am sure hon. Members who put their questions will forgive me if I refrain from trespassing on a sphere which does not belong to me. The administration of these departments is not in my charge and question as to what is the policy of the Agricultural or other department is a question which, I must feel, the hon. the Minister in charge of the department should reply.

"For the last three days the budget has been subjected to concentrated fire and is now lying on the floor of the House in a shattered condition. At any rate, it was the best budget I could produce. (Laughter.) In view of the criticisms which have been directed against it, I have attempted roughly to mould and reconstruct that shattered budget somewhat more closely according to the desires of the hon. Members who sit opposite. Our revenue is about Rs. 16½ crores. One hon. Member, a spokesman of that party, made much of the grievous burden which is placed upon the ryots' shoulders. Another hon. Member pointed to the fact that land in this country was paying 7½ crores revenue. He said not only that that land revenue should be stabilized. I will assume that a crore of rupees will go to the reduction

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demanded but also that burden should be reduced by my hon. Friend Mr. Koti Reddi, who was one of the hon Members who pressed strongly on that point. May I assume that that modest sum of two annas in the rupee would satisfy him?

"Our next source of revenue is Excise, 5 crores of rupees. Is that source of revenue to go? Some say at once. Others say by regular gradation. It seems to me the difference between a sudden death and a prolonged agony. Then our next most important source of revenue, Stamps, gives Rs. 2½ crores. Half a crore of rupees we are told ought to go in the shape of reduction of court fees and stamps. I shall also allow in that a little reduction for the Registration Department fees. Other main sources of revenue, Forest and Registration give Rs. 1 crore. Departmental receipts, Miscellaneous, one crore. That is our revenue. All these reductions which were urged by hon Members of the Opposition will take away a revenue of Rs. 6½ crores. It seems to be material. (Loud laughter.)

"Excise is to go. Why? Not merely on the ground that it is tainted money but because of the goal of prohibition. I have never heard of a country in which you can prohibit liquor without a very strong and expensive staff to carry out that task. I have asked one or two persons who know something about the matter to suggest a rough estimate for the necessary corollary, viz., an increase of establishment. It will, I am told, take at least a crore of rupees. 7½ crores gone! What are you going to do with what is left in the reconstructed budget?

"Perhaps I might call attention to the figures at page 10 of the Finance Secretary's memorandum. Hon. Members will remember that I am putting, for the purposes of the hon. Members opposite, the best construction on our financial situation. I assume that the whole of the sum of Rs. 165 lakhs has been restored to us. I am only taking the expenditure figures for the year 1925-1926. They have increased since then. Grants made to local bodies come to Rs. 2¼ crores. Are they to be reduced? I think hon. Members have urged that it is inadequate. Then there are certain charges which, even if the hon. Member, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, were sitting here, it would be impossible to reduce, debt charges, pensions, etc. Bare dead charges exceed a crore. Is he going to reduce pensions? They cost us over Rs. 60 lakhs. There is three-fourths crores for irrigation. We have had persistent demands from hon. Members opposite that the amount provided for the maintenance of irrigation works is totally inadequate. If these charges are provided for in the budget, 4½ crores of our depleted revenue would go. Suppose an additional quarter crore is given for irrigation maintenance. Add another demand, another quarter crore—that is the figure mentioned—to village officers. Curiously enough, these subjects on which additional expenditure is urged happen to be Reserved subjects. Another half a crore of your depleted revenue gone. Contingencies 1¾ crores of rupees. I think even the hon. Member for the University could not carry on the administration without paper, office tables, ink and things of that sort. I have now reduced the budget as desired by hon. Members by Rs. 3 crores. There is an item of Rs. 61 lakhs under 'Civil Works'. As to this, a new school of administrative thought has emerged, what I may call the 'open air' school. There are to be no more buildings; there are to be no more hospitals. Pupils will learn in the open air; sick patients will lie out in the streets. There will be no more dispensaries and no more office

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buildings. Government are to build no more bridges; Government have to construct no more roads. I will allow you the total disappearance of this sum of Rs. 61 lakhs.

"Then I come to pay of officers and establishments, allowances, etc. These amount to Rs. 7½ crores. They are distributed as follows, allowances for which there are no separate details available being distributed pro rata. Out of Rs. 7½ crores, charges on account of officers are Rs. 2 crores; charges on account of establishment, Rs 5½ crores. If you cut out all the officers, every one of them, and merely pay the establishment, it will come to Rs. 5½ crores. There will be a deficit of Rs. 2½ crores at least. Are you going to abolish all your establishments? We have had much talk about unemployment. We have had a special committee appointed to investigate the question of unemployment. One of the contributions to the unemployment problem under the new regime is to be a reduction of Rs. 2½ crores in Government establishment. Then I turn to the item of officers. I am trying to reconstruct the budget which has been placed before us by hon. Members of the House on that side in a fragmentary condition. We have been always told that all you have to do is to cut down the pay of officers and reduce their number. Very well. The total amount under officers is Rs. 175 lakhs. Of that sum, roughly Rs. 95½ lakhs go to superior services and listed posts. The balance is for provincial and other subordinate gazetted officers; they include Munsifs, Sub-Judges, Deputy Collectors, Public Works Officers, Deputy Superintendents of Police and so on. Are they to go? Are all these permanent servants to go? Or is it contended that their emoluments and prospects must be diminished and that materially?

5-15 p.m. "I think it is an important question; because I think the men at present in the services would like to know how they are going to be paid under the new dispensation, and I think also, Sir, that the young men now in our universities, and in our different educational institutions, and their parents would like to know what, under the new regime, is going to be the prospect and the future before them, should they enter Government service.

"Then, Sir, we are told the remedy to be complete Indianization in the superior services. Well, Sir, let us be rid of the European element; but still you will require Judges, still you will require Collectors, still you will require Divisional Officers, still you will require Executive Engineers and Superintending Engineers. You may be able to Indianise the services, and a time will come when you will be able to recruit all your services in India on somewhat lower terms than at present you are recruiting from among Europeans; but still, do you really suppose that you are going to be able to make such a large reduction in the pay of these officers that you will be able, by that means, to balance a budget such as I have attempted to construct from the constructive proposals which have been placed before this House by the Opposition."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao:—"Construction is not our business, it is yours."

*The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir:—"Mr. Harisarvottama Rao said that if he were in control of all these things he would come and bargain with me, and bargain for Rs. 1,000 a month. I was astonished for, I never really expected, under such circumstances, that I would be assessed at more than, say,

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a modest sum of Rs. 250. His suggestion, however, does remind me of expedients which under impecunious administrations such as his would have in the past been known to exist, but now put down, that is, the holding up of public offices to auction. I know that the other means by which hon. Members expect to get rid of the precarious financial situation which I have put forward and without any exaggeration would result from the total disappearance of the excise revenue."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"On a point of personal explanation, Sir. On this side of the House we never suggested the immediate disappearance of the 5½ crores of excise revenue. We said that it must be by definite progressive stages."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. the Deputy Leader of the Opposition wants to give a personal explanation, and he makes a statement on behalf of this side of the House. I am not able to understand how it is a personal explanation."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Sir, I am one of those who suggested that the excise revenue should go, and I submit that if the hon. the Finance Member wants to be fair to us, he must take our statement, namely, that no Member of this party and certainly not I, ever suggested that . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I have already said that no Member of the House has got a right to offer a personal explanation on behalf of his party or any other section of the House. If he has got any personal explanation to give regarding the statement which he has made and contrary to which the hon. the Finance Member is saying anything in his speech, he can give it."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Even in that amended form, Sir, I say that I never said that the 5½ crores of excise revenue should immediately disappear. I said that only a definite portion of it should go and that the whole amount should by definite stages completely disappear. If the hon. the Finance Member wants to construct a budget, as he says, on our figures, let him be fair to us. He always wants others to quote him straight and direct, and I think he should quote straightand direct if he wants to be fair to us."

* The hon Mr. T. E. MOIR :—"Sir, I do not think I was not quoting Mr. Satyamurti at all. I have already said that two different expressions of opinion were given which I characterized as a sudden death and prolonged agony. Certainly, for the purpose of my argument they make no difference. I was going to say that this difficulty can be met by substituted taxation. I can only say, as regards substituted taxation, that so far as the general welfare of the taxpayer is concerned, it merely means putting into one pocket what is taken out of another, and that is hardly a good suggestion, so far as I know, for dealing with what is termed the intolerable burden of the public revenue. I quite agree that that is a possible method, but as hon. Members know, the duty of dealing with that problem has been placed on the Finance Committee by the last Council, and so far as I know the present Council also has left it in their hands. It is a most difficult, it is a most complicated, and, may I add, it is the most thankless task. But I do regret that in spite of the financial implications of all these suggestions or criticisms against the budget, I have not to-day or yesterday or the day before heard one constructive suggestion from any hon. Member on the Opposition benches as to what taxation can be substituted to meet these sources of revenue which are going to be lost to us, if their proposals are carried out."

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Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Improve the economic condition before you think of taxation."

The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" In view of the facts which I have attempted to place before the House, I think I can claim that the budget which is at present before the House does hold the field as against all possible reconstruction that can be made from the criticisms that have been directed against it.

" I have attempted so far to deal purely with its financial aspects; but may I go further and touch on another subject a little more closely? One Member of the depressed classes accused me of being personally neglectful of their interests, and he added to that charge by reminding me that at one time for about a year I was in charge of that department which is entrusted with looking after their interests. Now, I look back on that year as one of the most strenuous, one of the most instructive and one of the most useful years which I have spent in a fairly long service in India. One thing it taught me was that there is nothing to despair of and that what are known as the depressed classes are quite capable of taking their proper place in the social and political structure of this Presidency. (Hear, hear.) It taught me that; but may I ask them, although I am now speaking as Finance Member, to remember that I am speaking from my own experience, I cannot conceive of anything that would be more prejudicial to the cause of the depressed classes than that an impression should arise that money is being spent merely to make a show and not with a view to producing any useful or permanent results. It is far better, may I assure them, that one lakh should be spent on their account to good purpose than that more lakhs should be spent than can really be justified by results. I should greatly regret if they thought that my interest in their welfare was ephemeral and is now merely formal. I think they will also remember that as Finance Member I must be absolutely impartial as between all claim that come before me. If, however, they think that my sympathies have waned, let me assure them my hon. Colleague, the Home Member, who has a big heart, will not let any opportunity be missed by Government which can be seized and add that my hon. Colleague who is most keenly interested in their welfare agrees with me that it is essential that progress, even if slow, should be firm and sure.

" If I have referred to the depressed classes, it is partly as an instance of those claims which we have to meet. Some Members propose practically to throw away the whole of this $1\frac{1}{2}$ crores which we have not yet got on one particular object, while others propose to dissipate 50 lakhs here and 50 lakhs there; but yet if you total up what could be spent within the next few years, if we can get the money to meet the perfectly legitimate claims and demands for fresh expenditure that have been placed before the House during the last three days, you will realize that a crore and a half is a trifling sum when compared to what we do want."

" I can only echo, in conclusion, Sir, the hope expressed by my hon. Friend the First Minister that we shall not simply fritter away that boon which is at last offered to us and which I surely hope we shall secure."

The Council adjourned at 5-29 p.m. to meet again at 11 a.m. on the 14th March 1927.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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